



DISTRICT PRACTICE 8100 CHALLENGE LEARNING RESOURCES

DISTRICT PRACTICE

1. REQUEST FOR INFORMAL RECONSIDERATION

The school receiving a complaint regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue informally. The first step is for the complainant to discuss the issue with the teacher. Further action would proceed as follows:

- 1.1 The principal, in conjunction with appropriate staff, shall explain to the complainant the school's selection procedure, criteria, and qualifications of those persons selecting the resource.
- 1.2 The principal or appropriate staff shall explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the education program, its intended educational usefulness, and any additional information regarding its use, or refer the person to someone who can identify and explain the use of the resource.
- 1.3 If the complainant wishes to file a formal challenge, a copy of policy and district practice 8050 selection of learning resources and a request for reconsideration of learning resources form shall be provided to the complainant.

2. REQUEST FOR FORMAL RECONSIDERATION OF LEARNING RESOURCES

- 2.1 All formal objections to learning resources are to be made on the request for reconsideration of learning resources forms available from the schools and are to be signed and then filed with the principal.
- 2.2 The Assistant Superintendent shall be informed by the administrative officer.
- 2.3 The principal is responsible for establishing the membership of the reconsideration committee and establishing meeting place, date, and time as quickly as possible.
- 2.4 When appropriate the reconsideration committee should include:
 - the teacher or teacher-librarian responsible for the learning resource;
 - an administrator from a different site;
 - a trustee;
 - a member of the school's parent advisory council;
 - a member of the School District staff;
 - a student chosen by the student body (in case of the secondary schools);
 - a community person with related professional knowledge; and
 - a chairperson shall be named and minutes of the meetings kept.
- 2.5 The reconsideration committee shall review the challenged resource and judge whether it conforms to the principles of selection outlined in the School District's Selection of Learning Resources policy.

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ADOPTED: June 1998
Amended: June 2008, January 2021



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3. RESOLUTION

- 3.1 The reconsideration committee shall proceed within these guidelines:
- (a) Examine the challenged resource.
 - (b) Consider the written submission of the questioner.
 - (c) Determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews of the resource.
 - (d) Weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context.
 - (e) Discuss the challenged resource in the context of the educational program.
 - (f) Provide the individual questioner with the opportunity to discuss the challenged item.
 - (g) Determine a final recommendation "in camera".
 - (h) Prepare a written report which will include the procedures followed, the minutes of the meetings, and the rationale for the decision made by the committee.
- 3.2 The decision and rationale shall be discussed with the individual questioner and appropriate staff, if requested.
- 3.3 For school-based collections, the written report shall be retained by the school's principal, with a copy retained by the Assistant Superintendent and a copy provided to the Superintendent.
- 3.4 The decision of the respective reconsideration committee is binding on the individual school. No decision of the reconsideration committee shall abrogate any right, benefit or process that the teacher directly involved may have in their collective agreement with the Board or otherwise provided by law.
- 3.5 Notwithstanding any procedure outlined in this policy, the complainant shall have the right to appeal any decision of the reconsideration committee to the Board's in accordance with the Board's Appeal Bylaw.

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