

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Monroe County Board of Education, though it is finally responsible for all book purchases, recognizes the student's right of free access to many different types of books. The Board also recognizes the right of teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accord with current trends in education and to make them available in the schools.

It is therefore the policy of the Board to require that books and other reading matter shall be chosen for values of interest and enlightenment of all students in the community. A book shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, or religious views of the writer or of its style and language. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed from library shelves or classrooms because of partisan, doctrinal approval or disapproval.

Censorship of books shall be challenged in order to maintain the school's responsibility to provide information and enlightenment. Accordingly, the Board adopts the following policy when dealing with censorship of books or other materials:

1. The final decision for controversial reading shall rest with the Board after careful examination and discussion of the book or reading matter with school officials or anyone else the Board may wish to involve.
2. No parent or group of parents has the right to determine the reading matter for students other than their own children.
3. The Board recognizes, however, the right of an individual parent to request that his or her child not have to read a given book, provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal.
4. Any parent who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any book in the school must make such a request in writing on forms provided through building principals.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT OTHER MATERIALS
(Other Than Curriculum or Instructional Materials)

Any citizen who wishes to request reconsideration of use of other material must make such a request in writing on forms provided through the building principals.

Every school shall have a committee of teachers, students, parents, and other appropriate representatives from the community organized to consider any complaints against any material used by the school. Such committee shall be appointed by the local school principal. The purpose of the committee shall be to review the complaint, examine the material, discuss the use and purpose of the material, and make a recommendation to the building principal, who is to consider the recommendation before making a decision regarding the matter.

If the decision at the building level is unfavorable to the complaining party, appeal may be made to the superintendent who will refer the matter to a county committee consisting of administrators, teachers, students, parents, and other appropriate representatives from the community. This committee shall be determined by the superintendent of schools of the county. The county committee shall make a recommendation to the superintendent of schools of the county. The county committee shall make a recommendation to the superintendent of schools for a decision.

Notwithstanding the provisions above, if the building principal determines the matter to be a county wide matter or a matter that is not unique to the local school, he may refer the matter to the county level directly.

All decisions shall be documented and submitted to the complaining party with copies maintained at the local school level and with the superintendent's office.

All lower level decisions shall be reviewed before a decision is rendered at a higher level.

(Use same forms as Citizens Appeal Form-KL-1)

Addendum Adopted: Monroe County Board of Education - 12/5/88