

## OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Members of the school district community may object to the instructional materials utilized in the school district and ask for their use to be reconsidered.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principals, to develop administrative regulations for reconsideration of instructional materials.

Legal Reference: IOWA CODE §§ 279.8; 280.3, .14; 301 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(12).

Cross Reference: 213 Public Participation in Board Meetings  
402.5 Public Complaints About Employees  
602 Curriculum Development  
605 Instructional Materials

Approved: June 11, 2012 Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE

The policy of this school district related to selection of learning materials states that any member of the school district community may formally challenge instructional materials used in the district's education program. This policy allows those persons in the school and the community who are not directly involved in the selection of materials to make their own opinions known. The task of the reconsideration committee is to provide an open forum for discussion of challenged materials and to make an informed recommendation on the challenge. The meetings of the committee may be subject to the open meetings law.

The most critical component of the reconsideration process is the establishment and maintenance of the committee's credibility in the community. For this purpose, the committee is composed of community members. The community should not, therefore, infer that the Committee is biased or is obligated to uphold prior professional decisions. For this same reason, a community member will be selected to chair the committee.

The reconsideration process, the task of this committee, is just one part of the selection continuum. Material is purchased to meet a need. It is reviewed and examined, if possible, prior to purchase. It is periodically re-evaluated through updating, discarding, or re-examination. The committee must be ready to acknowledge that an error in selection may have been made despite this process. Librarians and school employees regularly read great numbers of reviews in the selection process, and occasional errors are possible.

In reconsidering challenged materials, the role of the committee, and particularly the chairperson, is to produce a climate for disagreement. The committee should begin by finding items of agreement, keeping in mind that the larger the group participating, the greater the amount of information available and, therefore, the greater the number of possible approaches to the problem.

If the complainant chooses, the complainant may make an oral presentation to the committee to expand and elaborate on the complaint. The committee will listen to the Complainant, to those with special knowledge, and any other interested persons. In these discussions, the committee should be aware of relevant social pressures which are affecting the situation. Individuals who may try to dominate or impose a decision must not be allowed to do so. Minority viewpoints expressed by groups or individuals must be heard, and observers must be made to feel welcome. It is important that the committee create a calm, nonvolatile environment in which to deal with a potentially volatile situation. To this end, the complainant will be kept informed of the progress of the complaint.

The committee will listen to the views of all interested persons before making recommendations. In deliberating its recommendation, the committee should remember that the school system must be responsive to the needs, tastes, and opinions of the community it serves. Therefore, the committee must distinguish between broad community sentiment and attempts to impose personal standards. The deliberations should concentrate on the appropriateness of the material. The question to be answered by the committee is, "Is the material appropriate for its designated audience at this time?"

The committee's final recommendation will be (1) to remove the challenged material from the total school environment, (2) to take no removal action, or (3) to agree on a limitation of the educational use of the materials.

The committee chairperson will instruct the secretary to convey the committee's recommendation to the office of the superintendent. The recommendation should detail the rationale on which it was based. A letter will be sent to the complainant outlining the outcome.

## RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

## RECONSIDERATION REQUEST FORM

Request for re-evaluation of printed or multimedia material to be submitted to the superintendent.

REVIEW INITIATED BY:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

School(s) in which item is used \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to school (parent, student, citizen, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

BOOK OR OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL IF APPLICABLE:

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Hardcover \_\_\_\_\_ Paperback \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_

MULTIMEDIA MATERIAL IF APPLICABLE:

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Producer (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of material (filmstrip, motion picture, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON MAKING THE REQUEST REPRESENTS: (circle one)

Self, Group or Organization

Name of group \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Group \_\_\_\_\_

## RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

1. What brought this item to your attention?

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2. To what in the item do you object? (please be specific; cite pages, or frames, etc.)

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3. In your opinion, what harmful effects upon students might result from use of this item?

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4. Do you perceive any instructional value in the use of this item?

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5. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

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6. Should the opinion of any additional experts in the field be considered?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes

\_\_\_\_\_ no

If yes, please list specific suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. To replace this item, do you recommend other material which you consider to be of equal or superior quality for the purpose intended?

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## RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

7. Do you wish to make an oral presentation to the Review Committee?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (a) Please contact the Superintendent

Please be prepared at this time to indicate the approximate length of time your presentation will require. Although this is no guarantee that you'll be allowed to present to the committee or that you will get your requested amount of time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature