

Public Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

BP 1312.20

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The School Board takes great care in the adoption of instructional materials and is aware that all adopted materials may not be acceptable to all students, their parents/guardians, or other district residents.

(cf. 6161.1 – Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

(cf. 6161.11 – Supplementary Instructional Materials)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which will permit proper consideration of any complaints against the use of any instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary textbooks, library books, and other instructional materials and equipment.

(cf. 1312.3 – Public Complaint Concerning Discrimination)

The School Board believes the Superintendent and staff are well qualified to consider complaints concerning instructional materials. Complainants are advised to consider and accept the Superintendent or designee's decision as final. However, if the complainant finds the decision of the Superintendent or designee unsatisfactory, he/she may request that the matter be placed on the agenda of a regular Board meeting.

The School Board's decision in any such case will be based on educational suitability and will not be influenced by a desire to suppress information or deny students access to ideas with which the School Board disagrees.

(cf. 6144 – Controversial Issues)

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adoption Date: 10/13/99

Reviewed (Policy Committee): June 2021

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AR 1312.20

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Note: The following regulation provides procedures for receiving, considering and acting upon complaints regarding instructional materials used by the district. All parts of the regulation, including specified timelines, may be modified as desired to reflect district practice.

Complaints concerning instructional materials will be accepted only from staff, district residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school.

Complaints must be presented in writing to the principal on the appropriate district form. (*See Exhibit.*) Complaints regarding printed material must specify the precise nature of the objection. The statement must be signed and identified in such a way that a proper reply will be possible.

Individual students may be excused from using challenged materials after the parent/guardian has presented a written complaint. The teacher will then assign the student alternate materials of equal merit. Use of the materials by a class, school or the district, however, shall not be restricted until so directed by the Superintendent or designee.

Upon receiving a written complaint, the principal will acknowledge its receipt and answer any questions regarding procedure verbally and in writing. The principal will then notify the Superintendent or designee and the teacher(s) involved of the complaint. The Superintendent or designee will determine whether the complaint should be considered on an individual basis or whether a review committee should be convened.

The use of challenged materials by class, school or district shall not be restricted until final disposition has been made by the district.

A review committee may be formed under the direction of the Superintendent or designee. It shall be composed of five or more staff members selected by the Superintendent or designee from relevant administrative and instructional areas.

In deliberating challenged materials, the review committee shall consider the educational philosophy of the district; the professional opinions of other teachers of the subject and of other competent authorities; reviews of the materials by reputable bodies; the teacher's stated objectives in using the materials; and the objections of the complainant.

The review committee shall determine the extent to which the challenged material supports the curriculum, the educational appropriateness of the material, and its suitability for the age level of the student.

Within 30 days of being convened, the review committee shall summarize its findings in a written report and submit it to the Superintendent or designee for final action. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the complainant of his/her decision no later than 60 days after the complaint was filed.

The report of the review committee together with the Superintendent or designee's recommendation may be brought to the School Board for consideration and final decision.

When any challenged instructional material is reviewed by the district, it shall not be subject to any additional reconsideration for 12 months.

State-Adopted Material

If the challenged material has been adopted by the State Board of Education, the Superintendent or designee may forward the complaint, without action, to the Department of Education for reevaluation and decision.

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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