

Community Relations

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Governing Board uses a comprehensive process to adopt district instructional materials that is based on selection criteria established by law and Board policy and includes opportunities for the involvement of district staff, parents/guardians, and community members, and, as appropriate, students. Complaints concerning the content or use of instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary instructional materials, library materials, or other instructional materials and equipment, shall be properly and fairly considered using established complaint procedures.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss any concerns regarding instructional materials with their child's teacher and/or the school principal. If the situation remains unresolved, a complaint may be filed using the process specified in the accompanying administrative regulation and exhibit.

The district shall accept complaints concerning instructional materials only from staff, district residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school. (Education Code 35160)

However, a complaint related to the use or prohibited use of any existing textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library that alleges unlawful discrimination based on a violation of Education Code 243 shall be filed, investigated, and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

When deliberating upon challenged materials, the Superintendent, or any designee or committee established by the Superintendent to review the materials, shall consider the degree to which the materials aligned with the criteria for instructional materials as specified in law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. In addition, such deliberations may consider the educational philosophy and vision of the district; the educational suitability of the materials including the manner in which the materials support the curriculum and appropriateness for the student's age; the professional opinions of teachers of the subject and of other competent authorities and/or experts; reviews of the materials by reputable bodies; the stated objectives in using the materials; community standards; the allegations in the complaint, including the extent to which the objections are based on the dislike of ideas contained in the materials; and the impact that keeping or removing the materials would have on student well-being.

The Superintendent, or any designee or committee established by the Superintendent to review the materials, shall not prohibit the continued use of an appropriately adopted textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library on the basis that it contains inclusive and/or diverse perspectives, as specified in Education Code 243.

If the complainant finds the Superintendent's or review committee's decision unsatisfactory, the complainant may appeal the decision to the Board.

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COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

Any challenged instructional material that is reviewed by the district shall not be subject to further reconsideration for 12 months, unless required by law.

Complaints related to the sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials shall be resolved as specified in Administrative Regulation 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

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State	Description
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 1240	County superintendent of schools; duties
Ed. Code 18111	Exclusion of books by Governing board that are sectarian, partisan, or denominational character
Ed. Code 220	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 242	Access to information about educational laws and policies regarding right to accurate and inclusive curriculum
Ed. Code 243	Unlawful discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 35010	Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
Ed. Code 35160	Powers and duties of school boards
Ed. Code 35186	Williams uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 44805	Teacher enforcement of course of studies; use of textbooks, rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48907	Exercise of free expression; time, place and manner rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48950	Speech and other communication
Ed. Code 51204.5	Social sciences instruction; contributions of specified groups
Ed. Code 51501	Nondiscriminatory subject matter
Ed. Code 51511	Religious matters properly included in courses of study
Ed. Code 51933	Sexual health education and HIV prevention materials
Ed. Code 60000-60005	Instructional materials; legislative intent
Ed. Code 60040-60052	Requirements for instructional materials
Ed. Code 60119	Public hearing on sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 60200-60213	Elementary school materials
Ed. Code 60226	Requirements for publishers and manufacturers

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COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

Ed. Code 60400-60411	High school textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 60510-60511	Donation or sale of obsolete instructional materials
Management Resources	Description
California Department of Education	Instructional Materials, FAQ
Publication	
California Department of Education	Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social
Publication	Content, 2013
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal
	Services
Website	Department of Justice
Website	California Department of Education, Curriculum and
	Instruction Resources
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
Cross References	
Code	Description
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
1100	Communication With The Public
1250	Visitors/Outsiders
1250	Visitors/Outsiders
1312.1	Complaints Concerning District Employees
1312.1	Complaints Concerning District Employees
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4-E(1)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4-E(2)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
6000	Concepts And Roles
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6142.6	Visual And Performing Arts Education
6142.92	Mathematics Instruction
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

6144	Controversial Issues
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1-E(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.11	Supplementary Instructional Materials
6161.2	Damaged Or Lost Instructional Materials
6163.1	Library Media Centers
9000	Role Of The Board
9005	Governance Standards
9012	Board Member Electronic Communications
9200	Limits Of Board Member Authority
9322	Agenda/Meeting Materials

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COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Step 1: Informal Complaint

If a staff member, district resident, or parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a district school has a complaint regarding the content or use of any specific instructional material, such individual shall informally discuss the material in question with the principal. (Education Code 35160)

Step 2: Formal Complaint

If the complainant is not satisfied with the principal's initial response, the complainant shall present a written complaint to the principal. Complaints regarding printed material shall name the author, title, and publisher and shall identify the objection by page and item numbers. In the case of nonprinted material, written information specifying the precise nature of the objection and location of such material shall be given. In order for the district to reply appropriately, complainants shall sign all complaints and provide identifying information. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Upon receiving a complaint, the principal shall provide the complainant with a written acknowledgement of its receipt and respond to any procedural questions the complainant may have. The principal shall then notify the Superintendent or designee, the teacher(s), and other staff as appropriate.

During the investigation of the complaint, the challenged material may remain in use until a final decision has been reached.

Step 3: Review Committee

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether to convene a review committee to review the complaint.

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a review committee is necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall appoint a committee composed of administrators and staff members selected from relevant instructional and administrative areas. The Superintendent or designee may also appoint parents/guardians, students, and community members, as appropriate, to serve on the committee.

The Superintendent or designee may provide training to the review committee to ensure that the review committee is informed regarding its responsibilities, the criteria to follow when reviewing instructional materials, and applicable laws, Board policy(ies), and administrative regulation(s).

Within 30 days of being convened, the review committee shall summarize its findings in a written report. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the complainant in writing of the committee's decision within 15 days of receiving the committee's report.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

Step 4: Superintendent Determination

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a review committee is not necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall, in a timely manner, issue a decision regarding the complaint.

Step 5: Appeal to the Governing Board

If the complainant remains unsatisfied, ~~he/she~~ the complainant may appeal the Superintendent's or the review committee's decision to the Board. The Board's decision shall be final.

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Ed. Code 60040-60052	Requirements for instructional materials
Ed. Code 60119	Public hearing on sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 60200-60213	Elementary school materials

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

Ed. Code 60226	Requirements for publishers and manufacturers
Ed. Code 60400-60411	High school textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 60510-60511	Donation or sale of obsolete instructional materials
Management Resources	Description
California Department of Education Publication	Instructional Materials, FAQ
California Department of Education Publication	Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content, 2013
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Department of Justice
Website	California Department of Education, Curriculum and Instruction Resources
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COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

6161.1-E(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.11	Supplementary Instructional Materials
6161.2	Damaged Or Lost Instructional Materials
6163.1	Library Media Centers
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Regulation
approved: April 14, 1997
revised: June 22, 1999
revised: November 6, 2006
revised: July 17, 2024

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

Community Relations

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EXISTING
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

This form is only for use by district employees, district residents, or parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school to challenge the content or use of any existing textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library.

Name of person filing complaint: _____
Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Group represented (if any): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address, if any: _____

Address: _____

Material Being Challenged:

Title:

Author:

Publisher: _____ Date of Edition: _____

Name of school/classroom instructional material was used: _____

1. Please specifically state the nature of your concern or objection and identify your objection by page, website, webpage and/or link, recording or digital sequence, video frame, or words, as appropriate. You may use additional pages if necessary.

2. Was the instructional material of concern read/heard/viewed in isolation or was the entire selection read/heard/viewed? If the entire selection was not read/heard/viewed, what is your estimate regarding the percentage of the amount read/heard/viewed?

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

3. What is your concern regarding the consequence if a student reads/hears/views the instructional material? In your assessment, is the instructional material appropriate for the age of the students being taught?

4. What would you like the school to do about the instructional material?

Signature of Complainant: _____

For District Use:

Request received by: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Action taken: _____

Date: _____

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