INSPECTION OF AND OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Policy Code: **3210**

Though the Board strives to provide instructional and supplementary materials that will support and enrich the curriculum and enhance student learning, the Board recognizes that parents, teachers, and community members still may have concerns about certain instructional and supplementary materials used in the school system. The Board respects the right of parents to review instructional and supplementary materials, as those terms are defined in Policy 3200 Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials, and provides processes for objecting to the use of specific instructional or supplementary materials.

For purposes of this policy, all references to "parent/guardian" include a parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other caregiver adult authorized to enroll a student under Policy 4100 Admission to the Wake County Public School System.

A. PARENTAL/GUARDIAN RIGHT TO INSPECT MATERIALS

Parents/Guardians may review all instructional and supplementary materials, as defined in Policy 3200 Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials that are used in their child's classrooms. Instructional and supplementary materials do not include academic tests or assessments. Parents who would like to inspect and review instructional or supplementary materials should make a request in writing to the principal, identifying with reasonable specificity the materials the parent would like to inspect. Within ten (10) business days of receiving the request, the principal shall either (1) provide access to the requested information or (2) provide an extension notice to the parent explaining that, due to the volume or complexity of the request, access to some or all of the information will be provided no later than twenty (20) business days from the date of the request. Access shall be provided either by providing the parent with copies of the materials in question and/or by scheduling a time when the parent may inspect some or all of the materials in person or online. All materials used in reproductive health and safety education shall be available for review as provided in Policy 3450 Comprehensive Health Education Program.

B. OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALS

1. Objections to an Individual Student's Use of Materials

    a. Religious-Based Objections to Instructional or Supplementary Materials

    A religious-based objection to an individual student's use of an instructional or supplementary material will be addressed in accordance with Policy 3510 Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs.

    b. Objections to Materials Used in Reproductive Health and Safety Education

    If a student's parent objects to the student's use of instructional or

supplementary materials used in reproductive health and safety education instruction or in separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the parent may opt the student out of participation in the instruction in accordance with Policy 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program.

c. Parental Restriction on Student Borrowing of School Library Books

Any request by a student's parent/guardian that the student be prohibited from borrowing certain library books will automatically be granted. For purposes of this policy, library books are defined as electronic, print, and nonprint resources, excluding instructional and supplementary materials, held in a formal school library or in a classroom for independent use by students and school personnel outside of the standard course of study for any grade or course. The titles of all library books at a school may be accessed through a searchable web-based catalog displayed on the homepage of the school's website.

To request that a book in the school library collection be prohibited for a student, the parent/guardian must use the parent portal in the library management software system to identify the library book(s) that the student may not borrow.

To request that a book in a classroom library be prohibited for a student, the parent/guardian must submit the request in writing to the principal and applicable teacher(s) to identify the specific book that the student may not borrow by title, author, and ISBN.

d. Other Objections to an Individual Student's Use of Materials

If a student's parent objects to the student using a specific instructional or supplementary material, and the objection is not otherwise covered by this policy, the parent first should discuss the matter with the student's teacher in an effort to reach a resolution informally. If the parent is not satisfied with the teacher's response, the parent should request an informal review of the matter by the principal. In determining whether to accommodate an objection, school officials shall consider: the effect on the curriculum; any burden on the school, teacher, or other students that the accommodation would create; and any other relevant factors.

2. Challenges to Instructional and Supplementary Materials

A parent of a student enrolled in a school in the school system, a teacher employed by the Board, or a resident of the geographic area served by the school system may submit a challenge alleging that a specific instructional or supplementary material is: (1) obscene; (2) inappropriate to the age, maturity, or grade level of the students; or (3)

except for library books, not aligned with the standard course of study. The challenge must be submitted in writing to the Board. The Board will use a community media advisory committee to investigate and evaluate the challenge.

Members of the community media advisory committee will be appointed by the superintendent and include, at minimum:

a) three principals, including a principal from a high school, a middle school, and an elementary school;
b) three teachers, including a teacher from a high school, a middle school, and an elementary school;
c) a parent of a student in high school or middle school and a parent of a student in elementary school;
d) three school library media coordinators, including a coordinator from a high school, a middle school, and an elementary school; and
e) the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services and/or their designee(s).

Within two weeks of the filing of the challenge, the community media advisory committee shall hold a hearing and provide the challengers an opportunity to present their concerns to the committee. The committee may, in the committee's discretion, request additional information on the subject matter at the hearing from experts employed by the school system. Within two weeks of the hearing, the committee shall make a recommendation to the Board on whether the challenge has merit and whether the challenged material should be retained or removed as unfit material. The committee's determination will be limited to considerations of whether the material is unfit on the specific grounds of the material being: (1) obscene; (2) inappropriate to the age, maturity, or grade level of the students; or (3) not aligned with the standard course of study.

At the next meeting of the Board after the community media advisory committee's recommendation is received, the Board will determine whether the challenge has merit and whether the challenged material will be retained or removed as unfit material. The Board, at all times, has sole authority and discretion to determine whether a challenge has merit and whether challenged material should be retained or removed. The decision of the Board is not appealable.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; 20 U.S.C. 1232h; N.C. Const. art. I, § 14; *Board of Educ. v. Pico,* 457 U.S. 853 (1982); G.S. 115C art. 8 pt. 1; G.S. 115C-45, -47, -76.25(a)(5), -76.35(b), -76.40, -85.1, -98, -98.1, -98.5, -101

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