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**COMPLAINTS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Board recognizes that opinions may differ on the appropriateness of any given instructional materials and equipment. Occasionally an individual or group may find instructional materials used in the schools that conflict with their views. Any resident of this District shall have the right to present a request, suggestion or complaint in reference to the physical plant, playgrounds, subject matter or instructional materials.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop procedures to give careful consideration to such requests, suggestions or complaints. These procedures shall provide that:

- A. All such requests, suggestions or complaints be in writing;
- B. Whenever possible the process be initiated and solved at the lowest effective level;
- C. District response be courteous and prompt;
- D. Successive steps of appeal and mechanisms for review are available when necessary.

During the pendency of any challenge/appeal, the decision by the Superintendent or his/her designee as the continued use of the challenged/appealed instructional material shall remain in effect until a final decision on the challenge/appeal is issued or the challenge/appeal is dropped.

The final decision on any appeal or challenge on an instructional shall rest with the Board after careful examination and discussion of the book or reading matter with school officials or others the Board may wish to involve.

Date: January 18, 1983 (formerly File Code 6161.11)  
Revised/Reviewed: May 17, 1988 (formerly File Code 6161.11)  
Revised/Reviewed: November 25, 2013

**Legal Reference:**

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties  
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)

Board of Education Island Trees U.F.S.D. v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)

**Possible Cross References:**

1312 Community complaints and inquiries  
6144 Controversial issues  
6161.1 Guidelines for evaluation and selection of instructional materials  
6161.2R Complaints Regarding Instructional Materials