

Instructional Materials Selection

1. Selection of Instructional Materials
 - a. Responsibility for Selection of Materials
 - (1) The responsibility for the selection of instructional materials is delegated to the Superintendent. For the purposes of this procedure the term “instructional materials” includes print and nonprint materials (not equipment), whether considered classroom materials or media center materials.
 - (2) While selection of materials involves many people (principals, teachers, students, supervisors, community persons and librarians), the responsibility for coordinating the selection and distribution of instructional materials and making the recommendation for purchase rests with the department director.
 - b. Procedure for Selection
 - (1) Media
 - (a) In purchasing materials, the building principal/supervisor will evaluate the existing collection and the curriculum needs and will consult reputable, professionally prepared selection aids and other appropriate sources.
 - (b) Recommendations for purchase will be solicited from staff and students.
 - (c) Gift materials shall be judged by MESD’s instructional materials objectives and selection criteria and shall be accepted or rejected by those criteria.
 - (d) Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials no longer appropriate and the replacement of lost and worn materials still of educational value.
 - (2) Instructional Materials
 - (a) Instructional materials committees may be appointed if determined by the administration to be appropriate at the time that adoption areas are determined. Appropriate subject area and instruction level will be included in each committee if that procedure is employed.
 - (b) The general criteria for materials selection shall be followed by the committees.
 - (c) The committee shall present its recommendation(s) to the Superintendent.
 - (d) The Superintendent shall submit the committee’s recommendation(s) to the Board.
 - (3) Objections to Instructional Materials
 - (a) Any resident of MESD may raise objection to instructional materials used in MESD’s educational program despite the fact that the individuals selecting such

materials were duly qualified to make the selection and followed the proper procedure and observed the criteria for selecting such material.

- (i) MESD official or staff member receiving a complaint regarding instructional materials shall try to resolve the issue informally. The materials shall remain in use unless removed through the procedure in Section 3, b.6.(c) of this procedure.
 - 1) MESD official or staff member initially receiving a complaint shall explain to the complainant MESD's selection procedure, criteria and qualifications of those persons selecting the material.
 - 2) MESD official or staff member initially receiving a complaint shall explain to his/her best ability the particular place the objectionable material occupies in the education program and its intended educational usefulness, or shall refer the complaining party to someone who can identify and explain the use of the material.
- (ii) In the event that the person making an objection to material is not satisfied with the initial explanation, the person raising the questions shall be referred to someone designated by the principal/supervisor. If, after private counseling, the complainant desires to file a formal complaint, the person to whom the complainant has been referred will assist in filling out a "Reconsideration Request Form" in full.
- (iii) The individual receiving the initial complaint advise the principal of the initial contact no later than the end of the following school day, whether or not the complainant has apparently been satisfied by the initial contact. A written record of the contact shall be maintained by the principal/supervisor.

(b) Request for Reconsideration

- (i) Any resident or employee of MESD may formally challenge the appropriateness of instructional materials used in MESD's educational program. This procedure is to provide a forum for those persons in the schools and the community who are not directly involved in the selection process.
- (ii) All school offices will keep on hand and make available "Reconsideration Request Forms." All formal objections to instructional materials must be made on this form.
- (iii) The "Reconsideration Request Form" shall be signed by the complainant and filed with the Superintendent.
- (iv) Within five business days of the filing of the form, the Superintendent or person so designated by the Superintendent shall file the material in question with the reconsideration committee. The committee shall recommend disposition to the Superintendent.
- (v) Generally, access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process. However, in unusual circumstances the material may be removed temporarily by following the provisions of Section 3.b.6.(c) of this rule.
- (vi) The Reconsideration Committee

- 1) The reconsideration committee shall be made up of eight members:
 - a) One teacher designated by the Superintendent;
 - b) One member of the administrative staff, designated by the Superintendent;
 - c) Five members from the community appointed by the Board;
 - d) One student selected by the student council.
- 2) The Chair of the committee shall not be an employee or officer of MESD. The secretary shall be an employee or officer of MESD.
- 3) Special meetings may be called by the Superintendent to consider temporary removal of materials in unusual circumstances. Temporary removal shall require a three-fourths vote of the committee.
- 4) The committee shall receive all “Reconsideration Request Forms” from the Superintendent or person designated by the Superintendent.
- 5) The procedure for the first meeting following receipt of a “Reconsideration Request Form” is as follows:
 - a) Distribute copies of written request form;
 - b) Give complainant or a group spokesperson an opportunity to talk about and expand on the request form;
 - c) Distribute reputable, professionally prepared reviews of the material when available;
 - d) Distribute copies of challenged material as available.
- 6) The committee may request that individuals with special knowledge be present to provide information.
- 7) The complainant shall be kept informed by the Superintendent concerning the status of the complaint throughout the committee reconsideration process. The complainant and known interested parties shall be given appropriate notice of such meetings.
- 8) The committee shall make its decision in either open or closed session. The committee’s final decision will be:
 - a) To take no removal action;
 - b) To remove all or part of the challenged material from the total school environment;
 - c) To limit the educational use of the challenged material. The sole criteria for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use. The vote on the decision shall be by secret ballot. The written decision and its justification shall be forwarded to the Superintendent for appropriate action and to the complainant.
- 9) A decision to sustain a challenge shall not be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professionals involved in the original selection or use of the material.
- 10) Requests to reconsider materials which have previously been before the committee must receive approval of a majority of the committee members before the materials will again be considered. Every

“Reconsideration Request Form” shall be acted upon by the Committee.

- 11) Committee members directly associated with the selection of the challenged material shall be excused from the committee during the deliberation on such materials. The Superintendent may appoint a temporary replacement for the excused committee member, but such replacement shall be of the same general qualifications as that person excused.
- 12) If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, a request may be made that the matter be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.
- 13) The Board will hear the matter in open session and will be the final authority in the instructional materials appeal. The decision of the Board will be communicated to all involved parties within five school days after the Board renders its decision.