

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The County Board of Education 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 parents/guardians and community members. 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 administrator. If the situation remains unresolved a complaint may be filed using the process specified in the administrative regulation.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) shall accept complaints concerning instructional materials from staff, residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a COE school.

When deliberating upon challenged materials, the County Superintendent of Schools and/or review committee shall consider the educational philosophy of the COE, the professional opinions of teachers of the subject and of other competent authorities, reviews of the materials by reputable bodies, the teachers' stated objectives in using the materials, community standards, and the objections of the complainant.

Complainants are encouraged to accept the County Superintendent's or review committee's decision. However, if the complainant finds that decision unsatisfactory, he/she may appeal the decision to the County Board of Education.

When any challenged instructional material is reviewed by the COE, it shall not be subject to further reconsideration for 12 months, unless the County Superintendent determines that reconsideration is warranted.

Complaints related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials shall be resolved pursuant to the COE's Williams uniform complaint procedure.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

18111 Exclusion of Books by governing board

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35186 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

44805 Enforcement of course of studies; use of textbooks, rules and regulations

51501 Subject matter reflecting on race, color, etc.

60000-60005 Instructional materials, legislative intent

60040-60048 Instructional requirements and materials

60119 Public hearing on sufficiency of materials

60200-60206 Elementary school materials

60226 Requirements for publishers and manufacturers

60400-60411 High school textbooks

60510-60511 Donation of sale of obsolete instructional materials

Adopted 11/20/2014