

## CHAPTER 4.00 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

2. “Required schoolwide or grade-level reading list” means a list of reading material for a student in an elementary school that is required either for all students enrolled in the elementary school or for students enrolled in one or more elementary school grade levels.
  - a. A schoolwide or grade level reading list must meet the same requirements set forth in VI.C.1. of this rule.

### VII. Challenge Process for Educational Media Materials

Educational media materials deemed by some individuals to be objectionable may be considered by others to have sound educational value. Any concerned parent, Osceola County resident, or employee of the School District may request reconsideration of educational media materials in a school library/ media center. An Osceola County resident who is not the parent or guardian of a student with access to School District materials may not object to more than one material per month. The following challenge procedure shall be followed:

- A. The school media specialist shall discuss the matter informally with the complainant explaining the selection procedures for school library/ media center materials. If the complainant accepts the explanation given by the school media specialist, then the reconsideration process concludes.
- B. If the explanation fails to resolve the objection, the school principal shall ask the complainant initiating the challenge to file, within two (2) weeks, a formal written objection by completing a “Request for Reconsideration of Library Media” form which must reflect that the complainant has read the material in full. Failure to do so results in the conclusion of the reconsideration process.
- C. School Educational Media Materials Review Committee
  1. Upon receipt of the completed form "Request for Reconsideration of Library Media," the school principal shall forward copies of the form to the appropriate employees on the school-level Review Committee (e.g., a committee of teachers, educational media specialists, and parents of the school).
  2. Pending a final decision, the challenged educational media material:
    - shall not be available for student use; but

## CHAPTER 4.00 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- shall not be removed from the school library/ media center collection.
  - Any material that is not a course material required by Section 1003.46 or 1003.42, Florida Statutes, challenged based on being pornographic or prohibited by Section 847.012, Florida Statutes, or depicting or describing sexual conduct as defined in Section 847.001(19), Florida Statutes, must be removed within five (5) school days after receiving the objection and remain unavailable to students of that school until the objection is resolved.
3. The School Educational Media Materials Review Committee shall:
- review and consider the objections being raised;
  - read and re-evaluate the challenged educational media material; and
  - report its decision within fifteen (15) working days.
4. The school principal shall inform the complainant in writing concerning the School Educational Media Materials Review Committee's decision.
- D. School District Educational Media Materials Review Committee
- If the complainant disagrees with the decision rendered by the school-level committee, an Appeal may be filed with the School District Educational Media Materials Review Committee.
- E. The Superintendent shall appoint a School District Educational Media Materials Review Committee with the following composition:
1. One (1) representative of the Osceola County Public Library Board;
  2. One (1) representative of the general public at large;
  3. One (1) representative of a school parent organization;
  4. One (1) principal from the level at which the complaint originated (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12);

## CHAPTER 4.00 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

5. Three (3) school-level instructional employees, including the following:
  - a. One (1) certified media specialist from the level at which the complaint originated;
  - b. One (1) certified media specialist from another level; and
  - c. One (1) classroom teacher from the level at which the complaint originated.
  
6. Two (2) School District-level instructional employees, including the following:
  - a. One (1) School District-level instructional employee from the level where the material is in question; and
  - b. The Director of Media and Instructional Technology or designee.
  
- F. The School District Review Committee, in carrying out its assigned function, shall:
  1. Read, view, or listen to the educational media material in its entirety;
  2. Check general acceptance of the educational media material by reading reviews and consulting recommended lists;
  3. Determine the extent to which the educational media material supports the curriculum;
  4. Complete the "Checklist for Reconsideration of Library Media," judging the educational media material for its strength and value as a whole and not in part; and
  5. Forward, within fifteen (15) working days, a written recommendation to the Superintendent.
  
- G. The Superintendent's designee shall inform the complainant and the school media specialist of the School District Review Committee's decision to retain or withdraw the challenged educational media material.

## CHAPTER 4.00 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

### H. Appeal to Superintendent

1. If the complainant or the school's media specialist is dissatisfied with the School District Review Committee's decision, a written appeal may be filed with the Superintendent.
2. Failure of the complainant to file a written appeal within thirty (30) days of the School District Review Committee's decision shall result in a conclusion of the reconsideration process, and the decision of the School District Review Committee shall be final.
3. The Superintendent shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal, send the complainant and the school media specialist a written decision.

### I. Appeal to the School Board

1. If the complainant or the school's media specialist is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision, a written appeal may be filed with the School Board.
2. An appeal to the School Board of the Superintendent's decision must be filed within ten (10) days after the Superintendent's decision.
3. Failure of the complainant to file a written appeal within ten (10) days after the Superintendent's decision shall result in a conclusion of the reconsideration process, and the decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

### J. The School Board shall consider the decision of the School District Review Committee, the decision of the Superintendent, and any other appropriate documentation (e.g., meeting summaries, material reviews, etc.). The decision of the School Board regarding appropriateness of a particular school library/ media center material item shall be considered final.

### K. School library/ media center materials in question, can only be removed from circulation and/ or used in the School District through the procedures of this policy.