



SDMC Library Media Material Objection Procedure

Parent and Resident Objections to Instructional Material Used in Classrooms, Made Available in a School or Classroom Library, or Included on a Reading List

Parents and residents of the county may object to the use of a specific instructional material in the classroom, made available in a school or classroom library, or included on a reading list based on the criteria set forth in F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2. or F.S. 1014.05(1)(c).

For purposes of this policy, 'resident' means a resident of the county who has maintained their residence in Florida for the preceding year, has purchased a home that is occupied them as their residence, or has established a domicile in Florida pursuant to F.S. 222.17.

Parents and residents of the county must make any such objection by utilizing the standard objection form adopted by the State Board of Education, which shall identify the District's point of contact and contact information for the submission of an objection, identifying the specific instructional material and stating the basis for the objection.

The District point of contact will notify the school or schools that have the identified specific instructional material in their inventory. All submitted documents will be shared with the Principal(s).

Any material that is subject to an objection on the basis that it is pornographic or prohibited under F.S. 847.012 or depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in F.S. 847.001(19) (unless such material is for a course required by F.S. 1003.46, F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)1.g., F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3., or identified by State Board of Education rule) must be removed within five (5) school days of receipt of the objection and remain unavailable to students of that school until the objection is resolved.

The Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services will appoint one or more principals to conduct the school-level review of the identified material. The principal(s) conducting the review, or any committee designated by the principal, shall:

1. Inform the school's SAC of the objection.
2. Read and review the challenged books or materials.
3. Review the completed Library and Instructional Material Objection Form.
4. Consult professional review and academic resources to weigh the merits against alleged faults considering the material as a whole.
5. Determine the extent to which the material meets the FLDOE Criteria for Selection to reach a school decision.

After review, the principal, or committee designated by the principal, will communicate their decision to the curriculum department and District point of contact. If the decision is to discontinue the book at the identified school level, the principal must submit a written report to the Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services summarizing, at minimum:

1. The school-based decision
2. The specific basis for discontinuing use of the book or material
3. The content aligned to the specific basis for discontinuing use of the book or material

Within 90 days of the receipt of the formal challenge, the Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services will communicate the school-based decision to the complainant, all school principals, and community stakeholders.

If the objection is not resolved to the objector's satisfaction, the complainant may submit a request in writing to the Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services for a district-level review. The written request must be submitted within 30 days of the complainant receiving notification of the school-based decision. Only the original complainant may appeal a prior decision.

The Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services, in coordination with the District Library Media Coordinator, curriculum department, and other stakeholders, will review the material under objection and all documentation from the school-level review processes. Within 30 days of receiving the written request for a district-level review, the Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services will submit a written decision to the complainant. If the district-based decision results in a modification to the status of a material at the school level, the decision will be communicated to all school principals.

If the objection is still not resolved to the objector's satisfaction, the complainant may submit a request in writing to the Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services for an appeal to the School Board. The written request must be submitted within 30 days of the complainant receiving notification of the district-level decision. Only the original complainant may appeal a prior decision. The matter will be referred for a hearing, using the hearing procedures set forth in Policy 2520.

If the Board finds that the instructional material does not meet the criteria under F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2.a. or that any other material contains prohibited content under F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2.b., the district will discontinue use of the material for any grade level or age group for which such use is inappropriate or unsuitable.

If a parent disagrees with the determination made by the Board on the objection to the use of a specific material, a parent may request the Commissioner of Education to appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least five (5) years' experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts relating to the District's determination, consider information provided by the parent and the District, and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request by the parent.

The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than seven (7) calendar days and no more than thirty (30) days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The costs of the special magistrate shall be borne by the District.