

SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

**PATRON OBJECTIONS OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Procedure for Reconsideration of Materials:

Occasional objections to instructional materials will be made, despite the quality of the selection process. The Scottsbluff School Board supports principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association and in the Student's Right to Read of the National Council of Teachers of English. In the event that materials are questioned, the principles of intellectual freedom, the right to access of materials, and the integrity of the certificated library media specialist personnel must be defended rather than the materials.

If a complaint is made, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The building library media specialist fields the complaint.
2. The library media specialist visits with the building principal.
3. The library media specialist and principal decide to retain or remove the material.
4. The principal informs the complainant of the decision.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Inform the complainant of the selection procedures and make no commitments.
2. Request the complainant to submit a formal "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials".
3. Inform the principal and other appropriate personnel.
4. Keep challenged materials on the shelves during the reconsideration process.
5. Meeting of building library media specialist, principal, an administrator from Central Administration, and the individuals requesting the reconsideration. The "Report of Meeting" form should be completed to provide further direction.

6. If further action is needed, the principal requests review of the challenged material by an ad hoc materials review committee within fifteen working days and notifies the building library media specialist and Superintendent that such a review is being done. The Review Committee is appointed by the Superintendent, with the concurrence and assistance of the certificated media personnel, at the beginning of each school year. The Committee will include: an administrator from Central Administration, all building library media specialists, an elementary teacher, a Middle School teacher, a High School teacher, a parent from each building, and one High School student.
7. The Review Committee takes the following steps after receiving the challenged materials:
  - a. reads, views, or listens to the material in its entirety;
  - b. checks general acceptance of the material by reading reviews and consulting recommended lists;
  - c. determines the extent to which the material supports the curriculum;
  - d. completes the appropriate "Checklist for School Media Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Instructional Material", judging the material for its strength and value, as a whole, and not in part.
8. Presents written recommendation of Review Committee to the Superintendent and the School Board.
9. Retains or withdraws challenged material as mandated by the decision of the School Board.
10. If material is retained, it cannot be challenged for five (5) years.

## **LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS**

The Nebraska Library Commission affirms that all Nebraska libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their service.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on

current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit space and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted from the American Association Library Bill of Rights and passed by unanimous motion of the Commission on April 3, 1981.