

CHALLENGES TO LIBRARY, MEDIA, AND OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

[ISBA Code: 5051]

The Board recognizes the right of teachers, librarians, and administrators to select books and other materials in accordance with the current trends in education and to make them available in schools.

Therefore, books and other reading material will be chosen for value of interest and enlightenment of all students in the community. A book will not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, or religious values of the writer or of its style and language. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the current international, national, and local problems and issues. Books and other reading material of sound factual authority will not be prescribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan doctrinal approval or disapproval.

The final decision on controversial reading material rests with the Board after careful examination and discussion of the instructional materials with school officials and/or other individuals the Board may wish to consult. No parent or group of parents has the right to determine the reading matter for students other than their own children. The Board recognizes the right of an individual parent to request that his or her child not have to read given instructional materials, provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal.

Procedures For Removal of Library, Media, and/or Other Supplemental Materials

Parents or guardians, having custody of any student enrolled in the school corporation or a community member who lives within the school corporation boundaries may request that the removal of library, media, and other supplemental instructional materials on the basis the materials are obscene or harmful to minors as defined in Indiana law according to the following procedures:

1. A person having a concern about the use of library, media, and/or other instructional materials should first discuss the concern with the school librarian.
2. If the individual is not satisfied after the discussion with the school librarian, the individual should contact the building principal to discuss the matter.
3. If the individual is not satisfied after talking with the building principal, the individual may further the inquiry for a removal of the material in question by completing a Request for Removal of Library, Media, and/or Other Supplemental Materials form available in any school office and submitting it to the building principal.
4. Upon receipt of the completed form, the building principal shall request a review of the challenged material by a review committee within fifteen working days. The challenged material shall remain in use during the review process.
5. The building principal shall appoint the review committee and shall include but is not limited to a media professional, a classroom teacher, and a parent. For materials at the middle or high school level, a student representative may also be appointed.

6. The review committee shall take the following steps after receiving the challenged materials:
 - a. Read, view, or listen to the material in its entirety.
 - b. Review the definition of obscene and harmful to minors as defined in the Indiana criminal code.
 - c. Judge the material as a whole and not in part in determining whether the material meets the definition of obscene and/or harmful to minors.
8. The review committee shall make a written determination as to whether the material is obscene and/or harmful to minors and should be removed from the school library. The review committee's written determination shall be given to the building principal, the superintendent, and the person who made the request to remove the materials.
9. The person requesting the removal of the materials has the right to appeal the review committee's decision to the school board. The appeal must be in writing to the superintendent within ten days of the receipt of the review committee's determination.
10. The Board shall determine based upon the findings of the review committee whether to retain or remove the challenged material at its next public meeting after receiving the appeal. The board may also consider other resources in making its determination.

LEGAL REFERENCE: IC 20-26-5.5-1(a)
IC 35-49-2-1
IC 35-49-2-2