



Lincoln Public Schools
Lincoln, MA 01773

DRAFT 9/30/2016

**PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The School Committee, though it is ultimately responsible for all curriculum and instructional materials (including library books), recognizes the need and right of students to free access to many different types of books and materials. It also recognizes the right of the professional staff to select books and other materials supportive of the school district's educational philosophy and goals.

The School Committee has adopted the following guidelines for addressing concerns raised regarding curriculum and instructional materials:

1. No parent, group of parents, or other citizen has the right to determine curriculum or instructional materials for students other than their own children.
2. The School Committee recognizes the right of individual parents to request that their child not have to read a given book or other materials provided a written request is made to the appropriate school principal. Provided the request is timely, alternative material will be assigned if available.
3. The School Committee will not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but recognizes that at times a re-evaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any curriculum or instructional material withdrawn from school use:
 - a. The person who objects to the curriculum or instructional material will be asked to submit a written complaint to the school principal that documents the concern and includes contact information and signature.
 - b. Following receipt of the written complaint, the Superintendent or designee will review the materials in question using the criteria established in policy IJ, Instructional Materials to determine whether a re-evaluation of the materials is warranted. If a re-evaluation of materials is warranted, the Superintendent will form a review committee from among the faculty and administration to consider the complaint.
 - c. The Superintendent will review the complaint and the committee's re-evaluation and will render a decision in the matter. Should the decision be unsatisfactory to the complainant, the complainant may appeal it to the School Committee.
3. The final decision for controversial curriculum or instructional materials shall rest with the School Committee.

In summary, the School Committee assumes final responsibility for all curriculum and instructional materials made available to students; it holds the professional staff of the



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school district accountable for their proper selection. It recognizes the rights of individual parents with respect to controversial materials used by their own children; and it will provide for the possible re-evaluation of materials in classrooms and library collections upon written request. In addition, students' rights to learn and the freedom of teachers to teach will be respected.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. c.76:5

CROSS REFS.: IJ, Instructional Materials

Resources: Wayland Public Schools, Policy KEC
 Weston Public Schools, Policy KEC

Adopted at School Committee Meeting of _____