

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Committee 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 system's educational philosophy and goals.

Materials shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious views of the author. Effort will be made to provide materials that present diverse points of view concerning issues of our times, international, national or local. Materials of sound factual authority shall not be excluded because of partisan, doctrinal approval or disapproval.

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the schools may be expected from time to time. Procedures, developed by the Superintendent and provided to the School Committee, ensure prompt and fair attention to complaints about instructional material, while preserving the student's right to learn and the teacher's right to teach.

If a parent requests that his/her child not read a specific book, the teacher and/or principal should resolve the situation, (e.g. arranging for use of alternative material which essentially meets the same instructional purpose). This does not apply, however, to basic program texts and materials.

The Duxbury Public Schools recognizes that at times a reevaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material restricted or withdrawn from school use:

- a. The person who objects to the book or other material will be asked to submit a written complaint to the Assistant Superintendent in which he/she will articulate his/her criticism.
- b. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the Assistant Superintendent will provide for a reevaluation of the material in question. The Assistant Superintendent may arrange for the appointment of a Review Committee to consider the complaint, as appropriate. The Review Committee shall include administrators, staff, and parents as determined by the Assistant Superintendent. The Review Committee will not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections.
- c. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, the Superintendent will review the complaint and the reevaluation and will render a decision, in writing, in the matter. The Superintendent's decision is final. The School Committee acknowledges that parents can limit access for library material to their own children according to the procedure developed at each school.

Approved Duxbury School Committee
3/1/17