

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL CURRICULUM MATERIALS

The Pleasants County Board of Education recognizes the right of parents of students enrolled in the district to inspect and review textbooks, library books and other supplementary materials and to question topics or materials used in the instructional program.

To insure parents' rights to question or object to certain instructional material(s) or to request that their child not participate in a particular program, the following process shall be followed, as appropriate:

If aspects of a program, textbook, or supplemental material(s) are questioned or challenged, the Board shall implement the following:

- Challenged material(s) will remain in use until a decision has been reached by the Superintendent or Board of Education;
- No parent or group has the right to determine the reading matter or instructional materials for students other than their own children;
- Each question(s) regarding a topic, textbook, library book, or instructional materials must be presented to the building principal, in writing, and must indicate the specific objection(s) including the author, title, publisher, page number, or portion of each material being questioned, when appropriate, reasons for the objections, and signature of the challenger.
- The questioned topic(s), or material(s) shall be reviewed by a committee composed of members of the professional staff and lay citizens selected by the Superintendent. This committee shall review any material being questioned.
- The report and recommendations of the committee shall be submitted to the Superintendent.
- The Superintendent or designee will review the report and will submit an administrative decision.
- The Superintendent or designee will notify the challenger, in writing, of the results of the Review Committee's deliberation and recommendations within twenty (20) instructional days from receipt of the complaint.
- In the event the challenger does not accept the Review Committee's recommendations, he/she may appeal to the Board of Education at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. A copy of the Board's decision will be mailed to the challenger.

If an optional or elective curricular program addresses sex education or family life education and uses teaching strategies such as values clarification, questionnaires, role-playing, or other methods to question the student's or parent's feelings, beliefs, values or morals, or uses materials which involve the student's or family's right to privacy, a parent shall use the following procedure to request that their child be excused from participating:

- Parents must examine the program or material being questioned prior to requesting their child be excused.
- After examining the program or material in question, if parents object to the content for reasons stated above, they must express their intent that their child be excused from participation.

- Upon receipt of this request, by the building principal, the student shall be excused from the program in question.

Adopted: February 9, 2017

Reviewed: March 25, 2021