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PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT LIBRARY AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board reserves to itself the final responsibility for all library and instructional materials used and curricula taught in the District schools. It is the intent of the Board that all students in the District shall be provided access to a current, balanced collection of instructional materials, which presents information accurately and without bias. The Board recognizes that without a free and vigorous exchange of ideas, learning and teaching cannot take place effectively.

The Board also recognizes that district residents have a right to express concern about the educational programs of their schools. When citizens have concerns about particular courses or library or instructional materials, these concerns shall be stated in writing using Form 872, carefully considered, and accorded the courtesy of a prompt, written reply by school personnel. All such replies will be based upon the instructional goals of the District, upon course objectives, and upon the criteria for selection of library and instructional materials.

The instructor or librarian whose course or instructional materials has been questioned shall be the first to reply to a complaint. If the complainant is not satisfied, s/he shall have the right to appeal to the district administrator who may appoint a review panel to hear their appeal in person. The review panel shall include, but may not be limited to, a teacher or librarian, other than the one whose selection is in question, the building principal, the director of instruction, and a parent who has been involved in curricular discussions. The panel members may be adjusted by the district administrator if s/he deems it prudent and necessary. The Board shall serve as the final level of appeal. The library or instructional materials or the curriculum in question will not be removed or changed in any way during the complaint and appeal process.

Concerned district residents shall be treated with respect at all times. However, no parent or group of persons has the legal right to abridge the rights of other parents and teachers or of children to have access to the information which is part of the educational program.

Staff members shall attempt to accommodate serious religious or moral objections to particular instructional materials by providing alternate materials whenever doing so is feasible and retains the integrity of the curriculum. However, attempts by parents or students to control what others read and study will be subject to careful scrutiny and questioned by school employees and the Board.

The Evansville Community School District prohibits harassment or discrimination against any pupil in any program or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other basis protected by law.

Legal Ref.: Sections 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes

121.02(1)(h)

PI 8.01(2)(h), 9.03 (1) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code