

<b>Section I:</b>  <b>Instructional Goals and Objectives</b>	<b>Knox County Board of Education Policy</b>		
	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
	<b>Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Textbooks</b>	<b>I-212</b>	<b>7/95</b>
		Reviewed:	Revised:
		<b>12/23</b>	<b>10/23</b>

The Board supports principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association.

Educators shall regularly review instructional and library materials by considering the following:

1. Whether the materials are appropriate for the age and maturity levels of the students who may have access; and
2. Whether the materials are suitable for and consistent with the educational mission of the school.<sup>1</sup>

Because opinions differ, there may be questions concerning some instructional and library materials despite the quality of the selection process outlined in Board Policy I-211.<sup>2</sup>

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may request in writing to the teacher that a student not be required to read a book, use certain materials, or participate in an activity. The request should include grounds or basis for exemption. The teacher should respond in writing with alternative plans. If the request to the teacher is denied, then a written request may be submitted to the principal.

No student who is granted such a request shall be penalized academically for his failure to participate in an activity, read a book, or use certain materials.

Students, a student's parent or legal guardian, or a school employee may provide feedback regarding one (1) or more of the materials in the library collection or another instructional setting; this feedback will be reviewed following the outlined administrative procedure.<sup>1, 2</sup>

If upon reconsideration the materials determined to be inappropriate for the age and maturity levels of the students who may access the materials, or is not suitable for, or consistent with, the educational mission of the school, then the school shall remove the material from student access in the collection or grade level for which it has been deemed inappropriate.<sup>1</sup> Reconsideration decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

The final decision concerning the use of a controversial material shall rest with the Board. A student, student's parent or legal guardian, or employee may request to appeal the Board's decision to the Tennessee Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission via its website within five (5) days of its determination.

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Legal Reference:

1. T.C.A. § 49-6-3803.

Cross References:

- Knox County Board of Education Policy I-211.
- Knox County Schools Administrative Procedure I-212.
- Tennessee Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission (2023). Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/education/districts/textbook-services/textbook-commission.html>.

Approved as to Legal Form  
By Knox County Law Director 8/21/2023  
/Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director