

Section I:

# Knox County Board of Education Policy

**Instructional  
Goals and  
Objectives**

Descriptor Term:

**Reconsideration of Instructional  
Materials and Textbooks**

Descriptor Code:

**I-212**

Issued:

**7/95**

Reviewed:

**6/24**

Revised:

**7/24**

1  
2 The Board supports principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution  
3 of the United States and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association.

4  
5 Educators shall regularly review instructional and library materials by considering the following:

- 6  
7 1. Whether the materials are appropriate for the age and maturity levels of the students who may  
8 have access; and  
9  
10 2. Whether the materials are suitable for and consistent with the educational mission of the school.<sup>1</sup>

11  
12 Because opinions differ, there may be questions concerning some instructional and library materials  
13 despite the quality of the selection processes outlined in Board Policies I-211 and I-241.<sup>2</sup>

14  
15 Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may request in writing to the teacher that a student not be required to read  
16 a book, use certain materials, or participate in an activity. The request should include grounds or basis  
17 for exemption. The teacher should respond in writing with alternative plans. If the request to the teacher  
18 is denied, then a written request may be submitted to the principal.

19  
20 No student who is granted such a request shall be penalized academically for his failure to participate in  
21 an activity, read a book, or use certain materials.

22  
23 A student, a student's parent or legal guardian, or a school employee may provide feedback regarding  
24 one (1) or more of the materials in the library collection or another instructional setting of the student's  
25 or employee's school. The Board confers responsibility upon school and district administration for  
26 evaluating this feedback and rendering a determination, using the administrative procedure outlined in  
27 AP-I-212 "Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Textbooks."<sup>1, 2</sup>

28  
29 If upon reconsideration the material is determined to be inappropriate for the age and maturity levels of  
30 the students who may access the material, or is not suitable for, or consistent with, the educational mission  
31 of the school, then the school shall remove the material from student access in the collection or grade  
32 level for which it has been deemed inappropriate.<sup>1</sup>

33  
34 Reconsideration decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Determination on the reconsideration  
35 process are to be reported within sixty (60) days from the date on which the feedback was received. The  
36 district's final authority concerning the use of a controversial material shall rest with the Board.

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38 If a concern cannot be adequately resolved through the district's local reconsideration procedure, it may  
39 be referred to the Tennessee Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission for further action  
40 in either of two ways:

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1. If a determination is not made within sixty (60) days from the date on which the feedback was received, the student, parent/guardian, or school employee who submitted the feedback may request the State Commission to evaluate the material.<sup>2</sup>
2. After a determination has been made, a student, a student’s parent or legal guardian, or employee may request to appeal it to the State Commission within five (5) days of the report of determination.<sup>3</sup>

Legal References:

1. T.C.A. § 49-6-3803.
2. T.C.A. § 49-6-3803(e).
3. Tennessee Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission (2023). Retrieved from [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/textbook/commission/TBC\\_Library\\_Guidance\\_Document.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/textbook/commission/TBC_Library_Guidance_Document.pdf).

Cross References:

- Knox County Board of Education Policy I-211.
- Knox County Board of Education Policy I-241.
- Knox County Schools Administrative Procedure AP-I-212.

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