

CONTROVERSIAL MATERIALS

The Sevier County Board of Education expects that good judgment will be utilized in the selection of all textbooks, library books, and materials by teachers, administrators, and supervisors. This good judgment should preclude the selection of books and materials that are not appropriate for student use for a given age group.

Parent(s) may request that his/her child not be required to read a book, use certain materials, or participate in an activity. If the request to the teacher is denied, then a written request may be submitted on the appropriate form to the principal.

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

Occasional objections to some materials may be voiced by the public despite the care taken in the selection process and despite the qualifications of the person(s) selecting the materials. In case materials are challenged the right to read, freedom of access of materials, and the professional responsibility of the media personnel and other certified personnel must be defended before the materials themselves. If a complaint is made, the following procedures should be observed:

- * Be courteous but make no commitments;
- * Inform the principal and Materials Supervisor of the complaint;
- * Invite the complainant to file his/her objections in writing and give him/her a copy of the form, CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR THE RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, for submitting a formal complaint to the Media Committee.

The Media Committee consisting of the Superintendent (or designee), Materials Supervisor, librarian, principal, a parent, and a student (if appropriate) will:

1. Reexamine the challenged material;
2. Survey appraisals of the materials in professional reviewing sources;
3. Weigh alleged faults against merits to form opinions based on the material as a whole and not on passages isolated from context;
4. Discuss the materials and prepare a report on it;
5. File a copy of the report with the principal and Materials Supervisor;
6. Retain or withdraw the challenged materials upon completion;
7. Report the finding to the complaint in writing.

The final decision concerning the use of materials rests with the Board of Education.