

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719
PRIOR LAKE - SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

601.1 REVIEW OF CURRICULUM CONTENT AND ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

I. PURPOSE

The Prior Lake-Savage Area School District believes in the principles of intellectual freedom. Members of the community are welcome to review curriculum and instructional materials. Any parent/legal guardian or adult student in District 719 may express concerns about the content of instructional materials in the district's educational program. Whenever a concern is expressed, the district will respond with the procedure described below.

The intent of the procedure is to provide parents/legal guardians and adult students the opportunity to review instructional materials, address concerns and propose alternative instruction for the individual student.

The intent is not to interfere with the rights of others to receive the instruction in question, nor does it relieve the student from meeting state and district-level essential learner outcomes.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Instruction" means pedagogical methods of providing learning experiences that enable students to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements.
- B. "Curriculum" includes: district or school adopted programs, written plans and instructional materials, print material and film/video with descriptive narratives, that is utilized to provide students learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge and skills.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

When a parent/legal guardian or adult student (hereafter referred to as "person") indicates a concern regarding the content of instructional materials, this procedure shall be followed:

- A. Request for Review of Material
 - 1. Persons should send a written request to the building principal and their child's teacher to request a review of material.
 - 2. The principal and classroom teacher(s) will:
 - a. try to resolve the questions of the concerned person(s) during the initial contact or through follow-up meeting.
 - b. provide and explain the Minnesota state statute and the school district's policy and procedure.
 - c. inform the concerned person(s) that the student is not required to be exposed to the questioned material but will be required to meet the essential learner outcome.
 - d. inform the classroom instructor(s); and the affected department, if appropriate; of the materials in question.

B. Opportunity to Review Materials

1. School Responsibility

- a. An elementary (K-5) scope and sequence document, by grade level, will be made available online, to provide an overview of major topics included in each subject area. At the secondary level (6-12), course syllabi will be provided online by teachers at the beginning of each term.
- b. Teachers will provide weekly communication in advance of the upcoming week to share additional information specific to the weekly learning activities planned.
- c. All adopted curricular and instructional materials (including adopted learner outcomes, print material and film/video with descriptive narrative) will be made available for review by contacting the classroom teacher.
- d. Outside speakers, spontaneous classroom discussion and current events materials are not considered part of the planned content of instructions and are therefore exempt from the requirement for prior review.

2. Parent/Legal Guardian or Adult Student Responsibility

- a. Review materials during designated times.
- b. If a concern is identified, fill out Form A, "Statement Of Concern Regarding Instructional Content", specifically detailing the portion of instructional content to which objection is made and submit it to the building principal.
- c. Materials must be returned in five (5) student days. Exceptions may be approved by principal.

C. Alternative Instruction

1. Upon receipt of a statement of concern and request for alternative instruction, school personnel may propose one alternative form of instruction in place of the material in question.
2. The building principal will facilitate a meeting among the concerned parties and, if appropriate, present the school plan for alternative instruction, as described in Form B, "Alternative Instruction Contract".
3. The proposed plan must address the attainment of district learner outcomes.
4. If the school plan is rejected, the parents/legal guardians will be referred to the Executive Director of Academic Services or assigned designee. The Executive Director of Academic Services or assigned designee will review the requested alternative instruction plan and make a final determination.

D. Assessment Procedures

1. School personnel will determine an appropriate assessment.
2. When the contract is completed and the specified outcome met, the student will be granted completion credit or a grade for the work.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 120B.101 (Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.20 (Parental Curriculum Review)

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