

## SELECTION AND REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Gorham School Committee, though it is finally responsible for all school purchases, delegates the responsibility for the choice of classroom materials to teachers and building principals. The School Committee recognizes the students' right to free access to many different types of educational materials and reaffirms "The Student's Right to Read." The School Committee also recognizes its need to have teachers and administrators select and make available in the classroom books and other educational materials which intend to:

1. support the school's educational program;
2. interest students, stimulate their growth, and reflect community values;
3. explore the problems and issues of our times and enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
4. be appropriate to the ability levels at which they will be used.

Selection of educational materials will be nondiscriminatory and in accordance with the School Committee policy.

### Procedures for Review

1. Teachers shall have alternate selections available which will be provided to any student when requested in writing by the parent. The School Committee recognizes the right of an individual parent to request that his/her child not have to use educational materials offensive to the parent, provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal. However, no persons have the right to determine the educational materials for students other than their own children.
2. In the event of a request for review of classroom material, the first step shall be a conference between the inquiring party, the teacher directly involved, and the building principal. The inquiring party must fill out the proper form prior to this first meeting.
3. If the issue is not resolved at the first meeting, a conference of the above-mentioned parties and the Superintendent shall be scheduled as soon as possible.
4. If no resolution has been reached during the first two conferences, the issue may then be referred to an Educational Materials Review Committee appointed by the Superintendent and composed of one principal from the appropriate grade level, one librarian/media specialist, one classroom teacher, the department head in the subject area, two parents and other members the Superintendent deems advisable. The Educational Materials Review Committee shall submit a copy of its recommendation to the School Committee for final action.
5. The use of challenged educational materials will not be restricted prior to completion of the review process.

Adopted: April 10, 1985

Reviewed: May 14, 2003

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Questionnaire to be completed by any resident of the Gorham School Department attendance area who questions the use of particular instructional materials.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization Represented \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the nature of the material in question: (check one)

a. Text regularly used in class \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Publisher \_\_\_\_\_

b. Supplementary book used in class at option of teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Publisher \_\_\_\_\_

c. Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. I have carefully examined this material. If it is a book, I have read it in its entirety:

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

3. To what in the book do you object? (Please be specific, cite pages.)

4. What do you feel might be the result of exposure to this material?

5. For what age group would you recommend this material?

6. Is there anything good about the material?

7. I am well acquainted with the course in which material is used, and with its place in the curriculum: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer to #7 is no:

a. I would like a conference with the teacher of this course: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

b. I would like a conference with the department chairperson: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

8. What would you like the school department to do about this material?

9. In its place, what material of equal quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of our civilization.

