

**PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Monroe County Board of Education, though it is finally responsible for all book purchases, recognizes the student's right of free access to many different types of books. The Board also recognizes the right of teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accord with current trends in education and to make them available in the schools.

It is therefore the policy of the Board to require that books and other reading matter shall be chosen for values of interest and enlightenment of all students in the community. A book shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, or religious views of the writer or of its style and language. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed from library shelves or classrooms because of partisan, doctrinal approval or disapproval.

Censorship of books shall be challenged in order to maintain the school's responsibility to provide information and enlightenment. Accordingly, the Board adopts the following policy when dealing with censorship of books or other materials:

1. The final decision for controversial reading shall rest with the Board after careful examination and discussion of the book or reading matter with school officials or anyone else the Board may wish to involve.
2. No parent or group of parents has the right to determine the reading matter for students other than their own children.
3. The Board recognizes, however, the right of an individual parent to request that his or her child not have to read a given book, provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal.
4. Any parent who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any book in the school must make such a request in writing on forms provided through building principals.