

**PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
OR PROGRAMS**

The Board of Education reserves to itself the final responsibility for all curricula taught in the district schools, instructional materials used and instructional programs of the district. The Board recognizes that without a free and vigorous exchange of ideas, learning and teaching cannot take place effectively.

The Board also recognizes that district residents have a right to express concern about the educational programs of their schools. When citizens have concerns about particular courses or instructional materials or programs, these concerns shall be stated in writing, carefully considered and accorded the courtesy of a prompt, written reply by school personnel. All such replies shall be based upon the instructional goals of the district, upon course objectives, upon the criteria for selection of instructional materials or state and/or federal laws applicable to a particular instructional program (e.g. Title I).

Complainants shall be treated with respect at all times. As part of their inservice training, appropriate school employees shall be informed of this policy and established procedures and receive the necessary training to implement them effectively.

The course or instructional materials or program in question shall not be changed in any way or removed during the complaint and appeal process.

Staff members shall attempt to accommodate sincerely held religious or moral objections to particular instructional materials by providing alternate materials whenever possible. However, attempts by parents/guardians or students to control what others read and study shall be subject to careful scrutiny and question by school employees and the Board.

An instructional media center policy manual detailing center goals, objectives and materials selection procedures shall be available for public inspection from the District Administrator.

The Marathon City School District shall not discriminate in the selection and evaluation of instructional and library materials on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

LEGAL REF.:               Sections 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes  
                                  121.02(1)(h)  
                                  PI 8.01(2)(h), Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.:               Administrative Procedures Handbook  
                                  110, Educational Philosophy  
                                  361, Instructional Materials Selection  
                                  Board Rule 411, Discrimination Complaint Procedures

APPROVED: April 9, 2003