

# PROCEDUES FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS UNDER THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES POLICY

NEPN/NSBA Code: IMB-R

- I. General Procedures – Concerns about the teaching of controversial issues are to be handled by proceeding through the following channels of communication.
  - A. The first step in addressing concerns is to talk with the classroom teacher. Ask questions – find out if your information/understanding is accurate.
  - B. Take time to review the curriculum and/or material. Then go back and discuss your concerns with the teacher.
  - C. If the parent/guardian and teacher(s) cannot reach an understanding or compromise, the next step is to set up a meeting of the parent/guardian, teacher(s), and Principal. This meeting may be requested by any of the parties and should be done as soon as possible. A written request for release from instruction (Parent’s Objection to Curriculum Topic or Materials) must be submitted to the Principal prior to the meeting.
  - D. Should the parent/guardian, teacher(s), and Principal fail to reach an acceptable agreement through the above process, the parent will be referred to the Superintendent.
  - E. If the parent/guardian find the decision of the Superintendent unacceptable, a hearing may be requested before the Rangeley Board of Education.
  
- II. Educational Alternatives
  - A. If an objection to an audio-visual resource is not resolved, a written assignment on the topic may be substituted.
  - B. If an objection to a print resource (e.g., text, pamphlet) is not resolved, another print resource on the subject may be substituted.
  - C. If a specific topic within one or more areas of the curriculum is objectionable, an independent assignment on a related subject will be selected and evaluated by the classroom teacher. The parent/guardian may assist in the selection of independent assignments. Because of State educational requirements, a child may not be excused from many parts of the curriculum unless an alternative plan is developed. School staff will work with the parent/guardian to create an educationally appropriate compromise.
  - D. If a parent/guardian objects to scheduled instruction in an entire curriculum area, an alternative educational plan for home or other outside instruction must be submitted in writing. This plan must be approved by the State Department of Education. The plan must include curriculum objectives, content outline, activities, resource list and evaluation criteria. A copy of the plan must be provided to the local school unit. The Superintendent’s Office should be contacted for more information on this option.

Cross Reference: IMB – Teaching About Controversial Issues  
IMB-E – Parent’s Objection to Curriculum Topic or Material

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