

The School Board of Okaloosa County, Florida

Process for Objection to the Adoption of Instructional Materials

Pursuant to section 1006.28 Florida Statutes and School Board Policy 03-01, a resident or legal guardian of a student enrolled in a school that is part of Okaloosa County Public Schools may contest the School Board's Adoption of a specific instructional material as follows:

1. Once the materials are adopted by the School Board, a parent or resident of the county may contest the adoption of a specific instructional material by filing a petition within thirty (30) calendar days after the adoption by completing a Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Educational Materials form (MIS 1065). The form must be signed by the petitioner, include the required contact information and state the basis for the objection based upon statutory criteria which include: (1) the material does not meet the criteria of s. 1006.31 (2) OR 1006.40 (3) (a). Florida Statutes; (ii) the material is not aligned with the Florida Standards for the course; (iii) the material is not accurate, non-inflammatory, current or free from pornography; or (iv) the material is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.
2. Within thirty days (30) after the conclusion of the thirty (30) day contest period, the School Board will schedule at least one (1) public hearing on all petitions to be heard before an unbiased and qualified hearing officer. The hearing officer may not be an employee or an agent of the school district.
3. Petitioners will receive notification of the date and time of the hearing at least seven (7) calendar days before the public hearing and be granted an adequate and fair opportunity to be heard and present evidence to the hearing officer.
4. All contested materials will be available online to the public at least seven (7) calendar days before the public hearing.
5. Within ten (10) calendar days after the conclusion of the public hearing the hearing officer shall prepare a recommendation to be forwarded to the school board for final action in a public meeting.
6. In accordance with Florida law, the Board's decision, after receiving and acting upon the recommendation from the hearing officer, is final and not subject to further petition or review.

Adopted by the School Board on February 26, 2018