

IDENTIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION REGARDING SEXUALLY EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

As we partner with parents/guardians to provide an excellent education, we value their input into our curriculum. As such, parents/guardians may notify the principal that they wish to OPT OUT their student on any assignments that contain sexually explicit content and request an alternative assignment. Teachers will develop alternate resources that will accomplish the same course objectives. The request should be made in writing in care of the principal.

As a Board, we suggest that our staff choose material that does not contain sexually explicit references, considering the vast array of available material that doesn't contain it.

Definitions

Instructional Materials: any content used by one or more students for an educational purpose in connection with BVPS regardless of its format (may be printed, representational, audiovisual, electronic, digital) or the time, place, and manner in which the content is used. Library materials are considered instructional materials when used for the completion of a classroom assignment or an extracurricular education program. Instructional materials also include any division, school, and/or classroom purchased/created assignments. They do not include standardized national or state assessments.

Procedures

The following procedures have been developed to meet Code of Virginia requirements that relate to VSBA Policy IIA.

Identification of Sexually Explicit Materials/Content

Schools, under the direction of the Principal, will identify any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content as defined above.

Identification should take place prior to the start of each school year and be ongoing as resources are purchased/adopted throughout the school year and summer.

All classes, clubs, and extracurricular instructional materials should be reviewed and evaluated by the teacher (including classroom libraries).

All library resources that contain sexually explicit content will be flagged by the librarian.

If a teacher identifies an instructional material/resource that contains sexually explicit content, he/she will inform the Principal of the name of the material, the type of material, and the specific sexually explicit content the Principal and a Resource Selection Team will meet and decide if the resource will be used as part of the instructional curriculum.

If a student selects a library resource (from a classroom or school library) for a class assignment or an extracurricular education program that is flagged for sexually explicit content, the following steps should be taken:

- Hold the resource
- If the resource is from the library, the librarian will notify the teacher or sponsor that the student has chosen a flagged resource the teacher/sponsor will contact the parent/guardian and explain that the resource contains sexually explicit content.
- Ask if they would like to approve the student's selection in writing OR if they would like their student to select another resource. Parents may write one letter that exempts their child from all materials that meet this definition.
- It is ultimately the Principal's responsibility to know what sexually explicit instructional materials are in the building.

The Principal will keep a complete list of all instructional materials (classroom and library) that includes sexually explicit content and see that it is updated as needed.

The Principal will submit a complete list of all instructional materials that include sexually explicit content to the Superintendent by grade and subject matter (and submit an updated list any time an instructional material of this sort is added).

Written Notice

Written notice regarding instructional materials containing sexually explicit content is required by the Code of Virginia.

Principals will provide notice to parents/guardians at least 30 calendar days prior to the use of any instructional materials containing sexually explicit content as defined above.

Notice will be provided in a letter attached to the syllabus, sent home with parents/guardians at Visitation (or mailed/emailed to those who do not attend Visitation)

If a teacher (or the library) adds a resource during the year that contains sexually explicit content, notice will be provided in a letter that is mailed/emailed home to the parent/guardian 30 days before the use of the instructional material (teachers should provide a copy of the letter to the Principal before it is mailed)

The notification letter, email, attachment to the syllabus will include the specific instructional material(s) with sexually explicit content (title, type), text that states "Parents/Guardians have the right to review the instructional materials that contain sexually explicit content". text that informs the parents/guardians that they have the right to request alternative instructional materials that do not include sexually explicit content, with no fear of punishment or negative recourse

All notices need to be clear that the listed instructional materials are those that contain sexually explicit content.

If a parent/guardian changes his/her mind regarding the use of alternative materials, he/she must notify the Principal in writing (the letter should be maintained in the student's cumulative folder and included in log entries in PowerSchool)

The division will maintain a current list of instructional materials with sexually explicit content by grade and subject matter on the BVPS website

Principals will provide parents/guardians online access or hard copies of any instructional materials that include sexually explicit content for review if requested.

Parental Choice

As stated earlier, the division partners with parents/guardians to provide an excellent education, we value their input into our curriculum. As such, parents/guardians may notify the principal that they wish to OPT OUT their student on any assignments that contain sexually explicit content and request an alternative assignment. Teachers will develop alternate resources that will accomplish the same course objectives. The request should be made in writing in care of the principal.

As a Board, we suggest that our staff choose material that does not contain sexually explicit references, considering the vast array of available material that doesn't contain those it.

Adopted: by the Bristol Virginia School Board on January 05, 2023.