

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues

The Superintendent shall ensure that all school-sponsored presentations and discussions of controversial or sensitive topics in the instructional program, including those made by guest speakers, are:

- Age-appropriate. Proper decorum, considering the students' ages, should be followed.
- Consistent with the curriculum and serve an educational purpose.
- Informative and present a balanced view.
- Respectful of the rights and opinions of everyone. Emotional criticisms and hurtful sarcasm should be avoided.
- Not tolerant of profanity or slander.

The District specifically reserves its right to stop any school-sponsored activity that it determines violates this policy, is harmful to the District or the students, or violates State or federal law.

Requests for Curricular Reconsideration

Members of the school district community may object to the instructional materials utilized in the school district and ask for their use to be considered. Requests for material to be reconsidered will be reviewed by a curriculum review committee. The committee may be composed of District and building administrators, teachers, and parents from school improvement teams.

All instructional materials are selected in conjunction with Policy 6:210. Materials are selected that reflect best educational teaching and learning practices, are factual and accurate, are as unbiased as possible considering the objectives that are to be taught, and take into account Illinois State Standards.

Curricular materials are selected and recommended to the Board for approval by District curriculum committees in grades K-5. Department specialists are key in selecting and recommending the 6-8 curricular materials to the Board for approval. District and building

level administrators are also involved in selecting and recommending instructional materials.

The CCSD 89 Board shall review and approve all textbooks and the accompanying instructional materials. The Board shall also have the final decision regarding any determination made by a curriculum review committee in response to a request for a curricular reconsideration.

LEGAL REF.:

Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025).^{C1}

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

Mayer v. Monroe Cnty. Cmty. Sch. Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs)

ADOPTED: June 20, 2022

CCSD 89

PRESSPlus Comments

- C1. In Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a district likely violated parents' free exercise rights when it refused to give notice and allow them to opt their elementary-age children out of literacy instruction that involved the use of LGBTQ+-inclusive storybooks. See sample policy 6:260, *Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs* at footnote 3, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. Consult the board attorney regarding curriculum objections. **Issue 122, June 2026**