

CSBA POLICY GUIDE SHEET
Instructional Materials Special Packet October 2023

Note: Descriptions below identify revisions made to CSBA's sample board policies, administrative regulations, board bylaws, and/or exhibits. Editorial changes have also been made. Districts and county offices of education should review the sample materials and modify their own policies accordingly.

Board Policy 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) requires that the district's policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying include a statement that the policy applies to all acts of the Governing Board and Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district, (2) clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, (3) requires the California Department of Education to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum, and (4) provides that complaints alleging discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as specified. Policy also updated to reference **NEW U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS GUIDANCE** documents which provide that (1) a district may not separate students based on race, but may include group discussions or activities that focus on race as part of the curriculum, courses, or programs so long as access or participation is not permitted or limited based on race, (2) a school-sponsored program with emphasis on race, such as a student club, that is open to all students, typically would not violate Title VI solely because of its race-related theme, and (3) a district's responsibility not to discriminate against students applies to any of its programs or activities, whether directly or through contractual or other arrangements. Additionally, policy updated to expand the list of characteristics for which discrimination is prohibited in order to more closely align with law; and, to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 523, 2022)** which includes reproductive health decisionmaking as a characteristic for which employees, job applicants, unpaid interns and volunteers are protected against unlawful discrimination and harassment.

Board Policy 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum, (2) clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Governing Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, (3) provides that complaints alleging discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as specified, and (4) requires CDE to issue, by July 1, 2025, guidance regarding how to review instructional materials to ensure that they represent diverse perspectives and are culturally relevant. Policy also updated to expand and amend the list of criteria to be considered when instructional or library materials are being challenged; and, to provide that, unless required by law, any challenged material that is reviewed by the district will not be subject to further reconsideration for 12 months.

Administrative Regulation 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

Regulation updated to provide that for an instructional materials complaint for a nonprinted material the location of the objection be given; include that acknowledgement of receipt of an instructional materials complaint and notification of a review committee's decision be in writing; and, add that staff, in addition to the Superintendent or designee and teacher(s), be notified by the Principal as appropriate when an instructional materials complaint is received. Regulation also updated to delete material in the section

"Formal Complaint" related to a request by a parent/guardian who has filed a complaint for the student to be excused from using the challenged material while the complaint is pending; and, move the section "Review Committee" to come before the section "Superintendent Determination" so that it follows chronologically. Additionally, regulation updated to amend the section "Review Committee" to provide that (1) the Superintendent or designee may appoint parents/guardians and students, in addition to administrators and staff from relevant instructional and administrative areas, to serve on the committee, (2) include that the Superintendent or designee may provide training to the review committee to ensure the committee is informed regarding its responsibilities, applicable laws, and Board policies and administrative regulations when reviewing instructional materials, and (3) delete the list of criteria to be considered when instructional materials are being challenged, as this list is provided in the accompanying Board policy.

Exhibit(1) 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

Exhibit updated to specify that the "Request for Reconsideration of Existing Instructional Materials" form is for use when challenging the content of any existing textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library. Exhibit also updated to accommodate for digital instructional materials; merge together portions of the form that are content related; and, change from a checklist to an open ended response the portion regarding the complainants preference for what should be done about a challenged instructional material.

Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures

Policy updated to ensure compliance with the California Department of Education's (CDE) 2023-24 federal program monitoring instrument, and reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Governing Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, (2) provides that complaints alleging discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as specified, and (3) requires CDE to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum. Policy also updated to reflect that the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing is now called the California Civil Rights Department.

Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures

Regulation updated to reference **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Governing Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, (2) provides that complaints alleging discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as specified, and (3) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum. Regulation also updated to ensure compliance with CDE's 2023-24 federal program monitoring instrument

Administrative Regulation 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum, (2) provides that complaints related to instructional materials alleging that more than one student does not have sufficient textbooks or instructional materials as the result of an act by the Governing Board, or the Board's failure to remedy the deficiency, may be filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) directly, and the SPI may directly intervene without waiting for an investigation, and, (3) requires CDE, upon a finding that a district has not provided sufficient textbooks or instructional

materials, to take all remedial actions required by law, including purchasing textbooks and instructional materials and assessing a financial penalty against the district's local control funding formula. Regulation also updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 114, 2023)** which requires that the Williams uniform complaint procedure be used to address a complaint related to teacher misassignment that claims that a teacher who lacks credentials or training to teach English learners is assigned to teach a class with one or more English learners in the class, (formerly with more than 20 percent English learners in the class), and **NEW LAW (SB 760, 2023)** which authorizes districts to temporarily close a restroom for a documented student safety concern, an immediate threat to student safety, or to repair the facility.

Exhibit(1) 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

Exhibit updated to reference **NEW LAW (SB 760, 2023)** which authorizes districts to temporarily close a restroom for a documented student safety concern, an immediate threat to student safety, or to repair the facility, and **NEW LAW (SB 114, 2023)** which requires that the Williams uniform complaint procedure be used to address a complaint related to teacher misassignment that claims that a teacher who lacks credentials or training to teach English learners is assigned to teach a class with one or more English learners in the class, (formerly with more than 20 percent English learners in the class).

Exhibit(2) 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

Exhibit updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 114, 2023)** which requires that the Williams uniform complaint procedure be used to address a complaint related to teacher misassignment that claims that a teacher who lacks credentials or training to teach English learners is assigned to teach a class with one or more English learners in the class, (formerly with more than 20 percent English learners in the class), and **NEW LAW (SB 760, 2023)** which authorizes districts to temporarily close a restroom for a documented student safety concern, an immediate threat to student safety, or to repair the facility. Exhibit also updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which provides that complaints related to instructional materials alleging that more than one student does not have sufficient textbooks or instructional materials as the result of an act by the Governing Board, or the Board's failure to remedy the deficiency, may be filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction directly.

Board Policy 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) requires that the district's policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying include a statement that the policy applies to all acts of the Governing Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district, and (2) clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library. Policy also updated to provide that all allegations of unlawful discrimination in district programs and activities shall be brought, investigated, and resolved in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures. Additionally, policy updated to reflect **NEW U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS GUIDANCE** documents which (1) state that a district may not separate students based on race, but may include group discussions or activities that focus on race as part of the curriculum, courses, or programs so long as access or participation is not permitted or limited based on race, (2) provide that a school-sponsored program with emphasis on race, such as a student club, that is open to all students, typically would not violate Title VI solely because of its race-related theme, and (3) address discrimination in the use of discipline based on disability, race, and gender expression.

Board Policy 6143 - Courses of Study

Policy updated to expand the list of characteristics for which the district may not, on the basis of the student's actual or perceived characteristic, provide any course separately or require or refuse participation by any student, to more closely align with law.

Administrative Regulation 6143 - Courses of Study

Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) includes people of all genders (formerly "men and women"), Latino Americans (formerly "Mexican Americans"), LGBTQ+ Americans (formerly "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans"), and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic status groups (formerly "ethnic and cultural") to the groups for which

instruction in social studies is required to include a study of the role and contributions of. Regulation also updated to reflect the requirement for districts that offer a health education course to middle or high school students to include in such course mental health instruction.

Board Policy 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which (1) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to issue, by July 1, 2025, guidance regarding how to review instructional materials to ensure that they represent diverse perspectives and are culturally relevant, (2) requires CDE to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum, (3) requires the Governing Board to submit a copy of any resolution reflecting a finding of insufficient textbooks or other instructional materials to the County Superintendent of Schools no later than three business days after the hearing on such materials, (4) clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, and (5) provides that complaints alleging discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as specified. Policy also updated to expand the list in the first philosophical statement regarding the Governing Board's desires for the district's instructional materials; clarify that instructional materials for mathematics and English language arts that are aligned to common core academic content standards are deemed to be aligned to state academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education, move up the statement regarding the inclusion of the degree to which every student has sufficient access to standards-aligned instructional materials into the district's local control and accountability plan, and provide that the district shall take any action to ensure that each student has sufficient materials within two months of the beginning of the school year if the County Superintendent makes the district aware of a school that does not have sufficient instructional materials.

Administrative Regulation 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials

Regulation updated to add that instructional materials being piloted by the district assess the extent to which the materials accurately reflect and value society's diversity. Regulation also updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which includes people of all genders (formerly "men and women"), Latino Americans (formerly "Mexican Americans"), LGBTQ+ Americans (formerly "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans"), and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic status groups (formerly "ethnic and cultural") to the groups for which instruction in social studies is required to include a study of the role and contributions of, and (2) requires the California Department of Education to issue, by July 1, 2025, guidance regarding how to review instructional materials to ensure that they represent diverse perspectives and are culturally relevant. Additionally, regulation updated to include, for instructional materials being recommended for adoption by the Governing Board, that they include specified subject content requirements, support the district's local control and accountability plan, stimulate exploration of ideas and intellectual exchanges, and include options for materials in digital format.

Exhibit(1) 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials

Exhibit updated to clarify that districts who have determined that sufficient materials were not provided to students at a district school(s) in a certain subject(s), should complete the section "Finding of Insufficient Textbooks or Instructional Materials in One or More Subjects" in addition to the section "Finding of Sufficient Textbooks or Instructional Materials." Exhibit also updated to separate out section regarding "Finding of Available Science Laboratory Equipment for Grades 9-12," and to clarify the definition of "sufficient textbooks or instructional materials" in regard to materials in digital format. Additionally, Exhibit updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which requires the Governing Board to submit a copy of any resolution reflecting a finding of insufficient textbooks or other instructional materials to the County Superintendent of Schools no later than three business days after the hearing on such materials.

Board Policy 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials

Policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Governing Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material,

supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, (2) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to issue, by July 1, 2025, guidance regarding how to review instructional materials to ensure that they represent diverse perspectives and are culturally relevant, (3) requires CDE to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum, and (4) provides that complaints alleging discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as specified. Policy also updated to delete the section "Supplementary Materials Aligned with Common Core Standards" as these interim materials are no longer necessary since the State Board of Education has adopted K-8 textbooks and instructional materials aligned to the Common Core Standards. Additionally, policy updated to include factual accuracy and whether the material contains pervasive vulgarity or profanity in the determination of compliance of supplemental materials with district criteria; and, add that the Superintendent or designee may provide training to administrators and teachers in the selection and evaluation of supplementary instructional materials, including the criteria to be utilized and applicable legal considerations.

Board Policy 6163.1 - Library Media Centers

Policy updated to expand the first philosophical paragraph regarding the Governing Board's recognition of how school libraries support the educational program and the Board's desire for books and other resources that are stocked in school libraries. Policy also updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1078, 2023)** which clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Board to refuse to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, (2) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to issue, by July 1, 2025, guidance regarding how to review instructional materials to ensure that they represent diverse perspectives and are culturally relevant, (3) requires CDE to develop, by July 1, 2025, guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum, and (4) provides that complaints alleging discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as specified. Additionally, policy updated in regard to the criteria for evaluation of the condition and use of school libraries to add (1) that the quality of the collection at each library include types of materials (fiction, non-fiction, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, materials in other languages, and reference materials), alignment with curriculum, and provision of a broad spectrum of knowledge and viewpoints, and (2) that principals, teachers, and library personnel have knowledge of the process to follow when a library material(s) is challenged.