

TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: G. L. Quirk, Director of Secondary Education  
SUBJECT: Policy Relating to the Use of Sex Education Materials

Because of occasional requests coming to the Department for information concerning the procedure to be followed in obtaining approval of instructional material relating to sex education, it is believed advisable to restate the regulation of the State Board of Education and the procedures to be followed in requesting approval of such materials.

On October 28, 1954, the State Board of Education adopted the following regulation on sex education:

"No films, filmstrips, nor slides on sex education shall be shown to the students in any public school in Virginia unless such films, filmstrips, or slides have been first approved by the State Board of Education for this purpose; and no book nor pamphlet on sex education shall be made available for circulation through the school libraries for the students of any public school; nor any textbooks adopted locally and used in any public school which deal with sex education unless such books or pamphlets have been similarly approved by the State Board of Education."

In light of the above regulation, the procedures described below are to be followed by local schools in requesting approval of sex education materials:

1. After a specific book, pamphlet, film, filmstrip, or other instructional materials relating to sex education have been carefully reviewed at the local level by the appropriate school personnel, the division superintendent should submit to the Director of Secondary Education in writing his request for approval of such materials for use in his school division. In submitting his request, the division superintendent should clearly indicate in his letter a specific recommendation, approved by the local school board, concerning the precise manner in which such materials are expected to be used. In addition, the requests must be accompanied by copies of the materials for which approval is being requested.
2. When the request accompanied by the material has been received in the Department of Education, the material will be reviewed in terms of the request by a committee representative of the professional staff of the Department. If, in the judgment of the committee, the material is considered to be appropriate for use in the schools, the committee will make its recommendation to the Textbook and Curriculum Committee of the State Board of Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction. If, however, the committee deems the material to be inappropriate for use in the schools, the division superintendent will be notified in writing to this effect by the Director of the Division of Secondary Education. After receiving such notice from the Director of Secondary Education, the division superintendent, if he so desires, will have the privilege of further pursuing his request through the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
3. Official action taken by the State Board of Education with respect to requests for the approval of sex education materials will be communicated to the division superintendent of schools by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.