



## Perpich Center for Arts Education

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*Revised:*

*For Reference Only*

*P107.11*

*Orig. 2003*

*Rev. 2015*

## 680 REEVALUATION AND RECONSIDERATION POLICY

### PURPOSE:

The Reevaluation and Reconsideration Policy sets forth the procedure whereby an individual may make inquiry about the content of materials and methods of implementing the curriculum and programs at the state Perpich Arts High School. The objective of the procedure is to allow for differences of opinion, and to openly examine a concern or objection raised in order to bring resolution to the concern, issue, or subject matter in a fair and equitable way.

### POLICY

This is a summary of the Reevaluation and Reconsideration Policy in place at the Perpich Center for Arts Education. This policy permits person(s) with a concern about learning materials to follow the guidelines for voicing their concern up to and including a formal challenge. These items could be materials purchased for the Perpich Center Library collection, methods of implementing the curriculum or a student-generated work (gallery exhibit or performance).

### PROCESS

1. The complaint should first be made to the person immediately responsible for the program or area.
  - a. For example, if the complaint is in regard to classroom curriculum or student generated work, the teacher should be contacted.
  - b. If the complaint is about Perpich Center Library materials, the librarian should be contacted first.
2. If not resolved at that level, the complaint may then be presented to the director (principal) of the arts high school or another member of the Reevaluation committee.
  - a. This committee includes the director of the arts high school and one representative each from administration and Outreach, as well as the librarian, two student representatives (1 junior and 1 senior), two parents (one junior parent and one senior parent if possible), and two faculty members (1 arts teacher and 1 academic teacher).
  - b. If the complaint cannot be resolved on an informal basis, a formal complaint form must be completed and presented to the arts high school director who will bring it to the Reevaluation Committee for discussion and final decision.

### RELATED POLICIES

681 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY (107.12)

682 GALLERY AND PERFORMANCE POLICES BY ART AREA – (107.13)

This policy relates to student-generated arts area and academic classroom/studio work for display or public performance as part of the arts high school curriculum. Consistent with the mission as an educational institution for young artists, the arts high school provides considerable freedom to its students in the exploration of artistic expression. This freedom is particularly evident within the classroom or studio as students give shape to ideas and images under the guidance of their teachers. Questions dealing with the purpose of the work and the audience to be served need to be weighed carefully by the artist, other members of the class and the instructor. Instructors will make every effort to honor the effort and intention of the young artist. Ultimately, after discussion with the student, the determination regarding whether the work is to be viewed publicly shall rest with the instructor, who bases this decision upon written departmental standards. In the event a particular work raises questions that are difficult to resolve, the instructor will consult with the director of the arts high school in order to achieve a satisfactory solution.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- A. Who may submit a formal request for reevaluation or reconsideration?  
Parents, students, Perpich Center employees, library users or members of the general public.
- B. What might be reconsidered or challenged?
  - 1. Any material held in the library collection;
  - 2. Arts high school instructional materials;
  - 3. Student-generated work (ex. performances or gallery exhibits)
- C. Why include potentially controversial content in Perpich Center programs?
  - 1. The Center has a responsibility to include, in various program areas, content which deals with critical issues, some of which may be considered controversial.
  - 2. The development of rational thinking and understanding of the pluralistic society in which we live are the primary reasons for including study of potentially controversial issues in the programs of the Center.
  - 3. The Center (as an arts education agency), along with its individual staff and faculty, has a responsibility to give its learners:
    - a. An opportunity to study issues which have political, economic or social significance about which they will begin to have opinions;
    - b. Competent instruction balancing the various points of view in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice. A deliberate effort shall be made by the professional staff to achieve balance over time in the viewpoints to which learners are exposed; and,
    - c. The right to form and express their own opinions on potentially controversial issues without jeopardizing their relations with the staff and faculty of the Center.

In all situations dealing with personal values, the responsibility of the Perpich Center for Arts Education shall be to work to clarify values, not to advocate for

values, unless those values are stated in the Perpich Center for Arts Education philosophy, vision, mission and/or objectives and goals.

- D. Perpich Center for Arts Education administration shall review the Reevaluation and Selection policies and rules with staff annually. The staff shall be reminded that the right to object to materials is one granted by policies enacted by the Board of Directors and is firmly entrenched in law. They shall also be reminded of ethical and practical considerations in attempting to handle complaints with courtesy and integrity.
- E. A Reevaluation and Reconsideration Committee shall be formed each school year to deal with all formal requests for reconsideration.
1. Membership shall include:
    - (a) The librarian (committee chair);
    - (b) The director of the arts high school;
    - (c) Two teachers (one from academic studies and one from arts studies);
    - (d) Two representatives from agency staff (i.e. outreach and administration who are not faculty members);
    - (e) Two volunteer parents (one junior parent and one senior parent);
    - (f) Two students (one junior and one senior).
  2. Committee members will be recommended by the director of the arts high school and the librarian with final approval from the executive director. Members may serve consecutive years.
  3. A quorum consisting of the librarian, the director of the arts high school, one teacher, one staff member, one arts high school parent, and one arts high school student is required in order to conduct a meeting of the committee.
  4. The committee shall meet each year, electronically or in person, no later than the first week in November. Following this meeting, the chairperson will send a message to all agency employees reminding them of the informal and formal procedures to follow in the event there is a request for reevaluation.
  5. The committee chair will notify committee members ten (10) school days in advance of the first committee meeting of the year and for any subsequent meetings dealing with a specific request for reconsideration.
  6. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson to consider temporary removal of materials in unusual circumstances, and prior to the formal committee pending reconsideration. Temporary removal shall require a two-thirds vote of the committee.
  7. Notice of any meetings for the purpose of temporary removal or formal reconsideration will be made public through appropriate agency communications.