EXCEPTIONS TO USE OF SPECIFIC COURSE MATERIALS

The curriculum and course materials of the Salem School District are designed to meet statutory requirements and include other areas of study deemed appropriate by the professional staff and the Board. The curriculum includes topics and materials that are age and ability appropriate to the students.

RSA 186:11, IX-c requires the Board to adopt a policy allowing an exception to specific course material based on a parent/legal guardian’s objection. In addition, the Board directs the Superintendent or a designee to communicate to parents by letter or email, not less than two weeks in advance, identifying courses and/or course content that will address human sexuality or human sexual education.

To the extent practical the district shall make the materials available to parents or legal guardians for review upon request.

The Board adopts this Policy as required by that statute.

If parents/legal guardians object to specific course material, the parents/legal guardians must:

a. Notify the building principal in writing of the specific course material to which they object;

b. Provide a detailed written description or actual copy of the course material which they propose as an alternative to the District’s course material. That alternative material must meet applicable State requirements for education in the particular subject area; and

c. Provide a detailed description of how and when the alternative course material will be used to instruct the child at no cost to the District. The District shall have no responsibility to instruct with the alternative course material.

The building principal and parents/legal guardians must agree in writing to use the alternative course material as a replacement for District course material.

The parents/legal guardians must provide appropriate documentation to the building principal that the student has successfully completed the agreed upon alternative course material. If the parents/legal guardians do not provide that documentation, the student will not receive credit for the work.

If the building principal and parents/legal guardians cannot agree on alternative course materials, the Superintendent may be requested to assist in resolving the matter.

In accordance with State law, the names of the parents/legal guardians requesting exceptions to specific course materials and their reasons shall remain confidential.

Legal Reference: RSA 186:11, IX-c

Adopted 3/20/12; Rev. 8/29/17