

July 26, 2022

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kelsey James, board communications coordinator 801-538-7635 · kelsey.james@schools.utah.gov

State Board of Education Approves Library Materials Model Policy

SALT LAKE CITY –The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) today approved a library materials model policy. The approved model policy reflects the contributions of community members, board members, the Office of the Attorney General, and USBE staff.

The policy, which provides guidance to districts and charter schools for reviewing possibly sensitive materials in schools, was created in response to H.B. <u>374, Sensitive Materials in Schools</u>, and board rule <u>R277-628 School Libraries</u>. Some of the specific directions in the policy include:

- Guidelines for who may file a sensitive materials review request and an example request form,
- Guidelines for how a review committee is formed and when they must reach a determination.
- The process for appealing a review committee decision, and
- An outline of the steps USBE will take if it is determined a district or charter school did not follow their outlined library policy and/or Utah law during the review process.

Districts and charter schools will now use the model policy to develop a systematic process and timeframe for reviewing all school library materials using a sensitive materials rubric to ensure compliance with Utah law. Each district and charter school governing board should review and approve the policy by the September 1, 2022 deadline stated in board rule R277-628.

www.schools.utah.gov