

TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION		
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS		4400
ADOPTED: April 9, 2021	REVISED: July 28, 2023	MONITORING: Review: Annually

All curricular decisions and the selection, development, and provision of instructional materials shall be the responsibility of each authorized charter school. The school shall ensure that instructional materials align with Tennessee academic standards, as approved by the State Board of Education. A school may adopt further policies on school curriculum and instructional materials as it sees fit. All Commission authorized public charter schools in receipt of state funds shall adhere to applicable state laws and regulations with regard to school curriculum and instructional materials.

Employees of authorized charter schools shall not include or promote any concepts that would violate state law when providing instruction, using instructional or supplemental materials, or when implementing the instructional program and curriculum, as detailed by Department of Education rule 0520-12-04. An authorized public charter school shall post on its website the “Prohibited Concepts Complaint Form,” as developed by the Department of Education. An authorized public charter school shall adopt a policy to address complaints submitted to the school in reference to prohibited concepts.

In accordance with state law, parents/guardians of a student shall be entitled to review all instructional materials, teaching materials (including handouts), textbooks, and teaching aids used in the classroom of their child. As defined for the purposes of this policy, “instructional materials” denote instructional content provided to the student, regardless of format, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats. Parents/legal guardians may also review tests that are developed and graded by their child’s teacher.¹

In accordance with state law, each authorized charter school shall maintain a current list of the materials in the school’s library collection.² The charter school’s library materials list shall be posted on the school’s website. Each authorized charter school shall develop a policy for the development and review of school library collections, which shall include:

- 1) A procedure detailing the development of the school’s library collection;
- 2) A procedure to receive and evaluate feedback from a student, a student’s parent or guardian, or school employee; and,
- 3) A procedure to review periodically the school’s library collection.

After review of the school’s library collection, each authorized charter school shall determine whether the material selected for feedback is suitable for, and consistent with the educational mission of the school. If the material is determined not suitable for and consistent with the educational mission of the school, the authorized charter school shall remove the material from the library collection.

The above materials shall be made available by the school, upon request, to parents/legal guardians for review. The school shall adopt a written policy and procedures for granting parental review of school instructional materials and for responding to related grievances.

Legal References:

¹ 20 U.S.C. § 1232h(a); T.C.A. § 49-6-7003

² T.C.A. 49-6-3801, et.al.