

EDUCATION



THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Report to the Education Interim
Committee

Sensitive Instructional Materials

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STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

U.C.A. Section 53G-10-103

requires the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) submit an annual report on the implementation and compliance of this section to the Education Interim Committee at or before the November Interim Committee meeting.

This report marks the second report since the effective date of July 1, 2024, and covers the first full academic year of implementation since the effective date.

Sensitive Instructional Materials

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2024 General Session, the Legislature passed House Bill 29, *Sensitive Instructional Materials*, to amend provisions regarding the evaluation of instructional materials in a school setting. This report provides an overview of implementation and compliance of this bill following its first full academic year of implementation.

BILL OVERVIEW

In the Utah public education system, House Bill 29, *Sensitive Materials*:

- prohibits sensitive materials in a school setting.
- outlines a process for reviewing and appealing decisions regarding instructional materials that may be sensitive.
- establishes a threshold for when sensitive material will be removed from all Utah public schools.
- requires the state board to provide guidance and training to support LEAs.
- Members of the public may submit a concern of a violation of this section to the Utah State Board of Education Public Education Hotline or according to Administrative Rule R277-123, *Process for Members of the Public to Report Violations of Statute and Board Rule*.

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

BOARD RULE AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

This section outlines the foundational regulatory framework supporting the implementation of U.C.A. Section 53G-10-103.

Administrative Rule R277-628, *Sensitive Materials*

The Utah State Board of Education maintains Administrative Rule R277-628, *Sensitive Materials*, which was initially amended in June 2024. No further amendments have been made since the last reporting period. This rule continues to provide the structure for:

- Establishing minimum standards for an LEA's instructional materials policies and accompanying procedures for material selection and reconsideration.
- Defining the process for statewide removal of objective sensitive materials; and
- Setting the process for compliance and reporting requirements.

Instructional Materials Guidance Document

The Instructional Materials Guidance Document, approved by the Board in June 2024, remains a current resource for LEAs. This document supports LEAs in the effective implementation of the rule as they maintain their instructional materials, library, and sensitive materials policies.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

The Utah State Board of Education Library Media Specialist has continued to provide ongoing support to educators and administrators both in public education and higher education regarding implementation. This ongoing support includes:

- **Sustained Resource Dissemination:** Flow charts, checklists, and other practical tools continue to be updated and made available to help navigate the identification and handling of sensitive materials.
- **Expanded Training and Targeted Assistance:** Technical assistance and training sessions have been delivered to library directors, curriculum directors, teacher preparation and student teacher higher education programs, and educators and librarians throughout the state in both charter schools and districts.

LEA POLICIES

Pursuant to Administrative Rule R277-628, Sensitive Materials, all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to maintain a policy and accompanying procedures for the selection and reconsideration of instructional materials selected for a school consistent with this section. No changes to the Board Rule governing LEA policy requirements have been enacted since the prior reporting period.

TITLES REMOVED STATEWIDE

House Bill 29, *Sensitive Materials*, requires the statewide removal of any material deemed “objective sensitive” if at least three school districts, or two districts and five charter schools, independently determine the material meets those criteria.

As of October 27, 2025, a total of nineteen titles have met the threshold and been removed statewide.

Title	Author	Removed in the following Districts	Title was located in the following grade levels
A Court of Thorns and Roses (Court of Thorns and Roses #1)	Maas, Sarah J.	Alpine, Davis, Jordan, Nebo, Washington	7-12
A Court of Frost and Starlight (Court of Thorns and Roses #3.1)	Maas, Sarah J.	Alpine, Davis, Jordan, Nebo, Washington	7-12
A Court of Mist and Fury (Court of Thorns and Roses #2)	Maas, Sarah J.	Alpine, Davis, Nebo, Washington	9-12
A Court of Silver Flames (Court of Thorns and Roses #4)	Maas, Sarah J.	Alpine, Davis, Nebo, Washington	9-12
What Girls Are Made Of	Arnold, Elana K.	Alpine, Davis, Jordan, Washington	9-12
A Court of Wings and Ruin (Court of Thorns and Roses #3)	Maas, Sarah J.	Alpine, Davis, Nebo, Washington	9-12
Milk and Honey	Kaur, Rupri	Davis, Jordan, Washington	9-12
Forever	Blume, Judy	Davis, Nebo, Washington	9-12
Tilt	Hopkins, Ellen	Davis, Tooele, Washington	9-12

Fallout (Crank, Book 3)	Hopkins, Ellen	Alpine, Davis, Washington	9-12
Oryx and Crake	Atwood, Margaret	Davis, Jordan, Washington	9-12
Blankets	Thompson, Craig	Davis, Nebo, Washington	9-12
Empire of Storms (Throne of Glass #5)	Maas, Sarah J.	Davis, Jordan, Washington	7-12
Living Dead Girl	Scott, Scott	Davis, Tooele, Washington	7-12
Damsel	Arnold, Elana K.	Davis, Park City, Washington	8-12
Like a Love Story	Nazemian, Abdi	Davis, Jordan, Washington	9-12
Tricks (Tricks, Book 1)	Hopkins, Ellen	Davis, Tooele, Washington	7-12
Water for Elephants	Gruen, Sara	Cache, Davis, Tooele	7-12
Thirteen Reasons Why	Asher, Jay	Nebo, Tooele, Washington	7-12

as of October 21, 2024

COMPLIANCE REPORT

Administrative Rule R277-123 Reported Violations

There have been no reported violations submitted, according to Administrative Rule R277-123, *Process for Members of the Public to Report Violations of Statute and Board Rule*, since the effective date of July 1, 2024.

Utah State Board Public Education Hotline Reported Violations

A total of eight (8) reported violations of this section have been submitted to the Utah State Board of Education Public Education Hotline since the effective date of July 1, 2024. This includes the three (3) concerns submitted prior to the October 2024 report and five (5) additional concerns received between November 2024 and October 2025.

Of the eight total concerns, four (4) were submitted anonymously without an identified LEA. In these cases, the complainant was referred to USBE resources and encouraged to contact their local school board to utilize the formal reconsideration process. The other four (4) were not anonymous and named a specific LEA. USBE forwarded these concerns to the respective LEAs, which subsequently provided a direct response to the complainant detailing the status of the material or their policy for handling such requests.