

EDUCATIONAL ATTENTION



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

Sensitive Instructional Materials

October 2024

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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 first report since the effective date of July 1, 2024.

Sensitive Instructional Materials

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2024 General Session, the Legislature passed House Bill 29, *Sensitive 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.

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*.

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 a sensitive material will be removed from all Utah public schools.
- requires the state board provide guidance and training to support LEAs.

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

BOARD RULE AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

In June 2024, the Utah State Board of Education, amended Administrative Rule R277-628, *Sensitive Materials* to provide:

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

In June 2024, the board also approved an *Instructional Materials Guidance Document* as a resource for LEAs as they update their instructional materials, library and sensitive materials policies.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

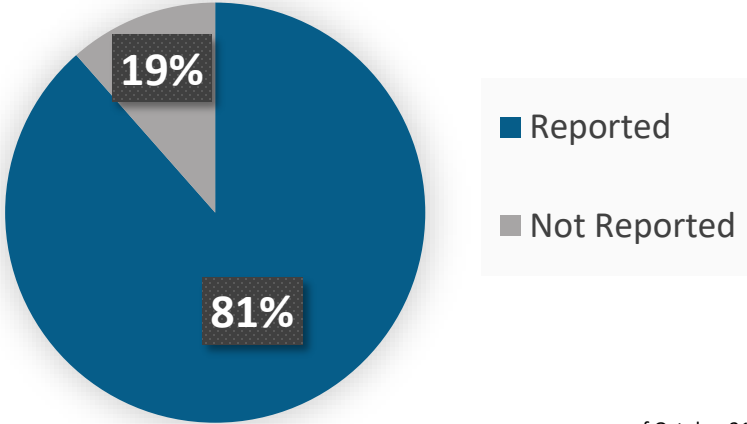
The Utah State Board of Education Library Media Specialist has provided extensive support to educators and administrators both in public education and higher education with implementation. This support includes:

- **Developing and disseminating resources:** Flow charts, checklists, and other practical tools have been made available to help navigate the identification and handling of sensitive materials.
- **Providing targeted training:** Technical assistance has been provided 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

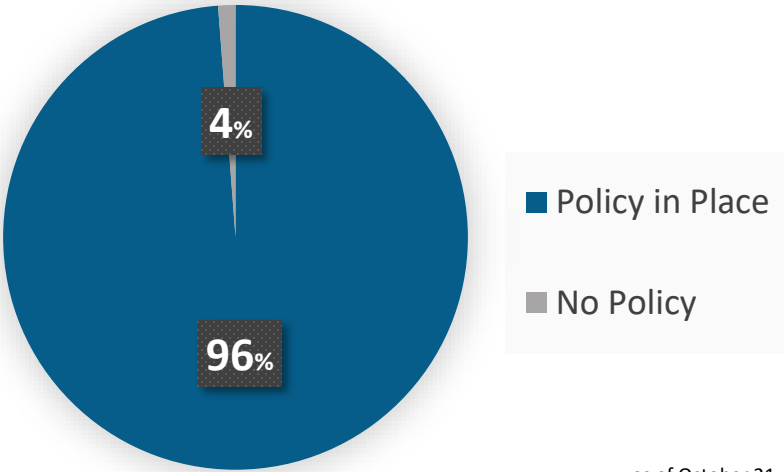
Administrative Rule R277-628, *Sensitive Materials* requires LEAs to establish a policy and accompanying procedures for the selection and reconsideration of instructional materials selected for a school consistent with this section.

79% of LEAs reported updated policies or in process of updating



as of October 21, 2024

96% of Students Covered by a Policy



as of October 21, 2024

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 21, 2024, thirteen 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

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

Three 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.

The reported violations and USBE action include:

- **LEA not identified by complainant** – referred complainant to the resources on the Library Media page on the USBE website and encouraged complainant to contact their local school board.
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