

Procedure for Parent Requests for Alternative Learning

The West Salem School District regards parents/guardians as the primary educators for their child(ren). The district believes proper communication is vital to keep our families and teachers working as partners in students' learning. We understand that what is considered appropriate can vary from one student or one parent to another and that some topics are sensitive for some students or families. We welcome our families, who know their students best, to make educational decisions about the content that is appropriate for their child(ren).

Parents/guardians always retain choice in their child's education. Through proper communication, a family may request alternative learning topics for a student if they wish to avoid topics that are sensitive to their family by using the following procedure:

Step 1: School Communication

- A. Parents/guardians of students in grades 4K-8 are encouraged to read the newsletters provided by classroom teachers and/or the school. If there are upcoming topics that any family finds sensitive, they may proceed to Step 2.
- B. Parents/guardians of students in grades 9-12 may inform teachers of any sensitive topic(s) they want to know before it is part of a planned lesson. If this advance notice is given, teachers will inform parents at least one week before a planned lesson, including this topic. Teachers often plan for a choice of texts or activities when topics may be sensitive, and the teacher will also inform parents of any such options at this time. If there are upcoming topics that any family finds sensitive, and the parent/guardian does not feel the existing choice of activities is adequate for their child, they may proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: Notification

- A. If a parent/guardian wishes for a different learning activity to be provided for their child, the parent should contact their child's teacher through email or phone, asking them to have an alternate learning activity. The teacher will comply upon receiving this notification.
- B. If a parent/guardian does not feel that an appropriate alternative learning activity has been provided, he or she may contact the school principal.

Library Media Center

- Parents/guardians at all schools may, if desired, request limits to the types of books that their students can check out by emailing the LMC Director of the school's LMC with a specific title(s) or author(s) that their child may not check out.
- Because of the middle school building's wider developmental and maturity span, books in the middle school LMC intended for young adult readers are labeled with a YA sticker. YA books are generally written to be of interest to students aged 12 and up. The middle school LMC director makes the YA classification based on nationally published book reviews written to inform schools and parents. 5th-grade students cannot check out books labeled as YA, regardless of parent preference. Students in grades 6-8 may be restricted from checking out books labeled as YA if a parent/guardian wishes to do so. This would be done by contacting the middle school LMC.

Reference to [policies 2131](#), [2240](#), [2260](#), [5710](#), [5517.01](#), [9130](#)