



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

October 9, 2024

Dear Palmetto State Parent:

In South Carolina, we know that public education is built on trust. That trust requires mutual respect, transparent communication, and open collaboration between parents and educators.

Parents have the right to know what their children are learning in their local public schools, and, if necessary, the right to address concerns about instructional material that is not age and developmentally appropriate.

While most South Carolina educators seek to make responsible choices, use common sense, and be responsive to parental concerns, increasingly, disagreements have arisen regarding the suitability of various materials provided in public schools.

Previously, local districts followed varying policies that created an uneven opportunity for parents to have their concerns addressed in a clear and consistent manner. To address this challenge, the South Carolina Board of Education carefully promulgated [Regulation 43-170](#).

Their intent: to establish a clear, transparent, and uniform process that provides certainty for local educators, respects the legitimate prerogatives of parents, and protects students from materials that are not age or developmentally appropriate. I encourage you to read this helpful [Executive Summary](#) that explains the history and substance of the regulation.

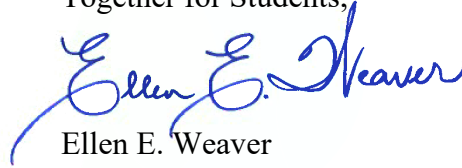
This regulation lays out consistent definitions outlined in [long-standing South Carolina law](#) and establishes a two-prong threshold test for local educators and boards to determine if materials available to students in public schools are (1) age and developmentally appropriate and (2) educationally suitable and aligned with the purpose of South Carolina's instructional program.

It also creates a uniform process for parents to contest materials before their local school board and, if necessary, to appeal to the State Board of Education to ensure that their concerns are fully addressed. Information about that process, along with helpful resources and forms, may be accessed on the [South Carolina Department of Education's website](#).

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In closing, we understand that you have entrusted your local school with your most precious gift: your child. We take our responsibility to educate and protect your student with the utmost seriousness, and we will strive every day to build and maintain your trust. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in your family's education journey.

Together for Students,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen E. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" and the last name "Weaver" being the most prominent parts.

Ellen E. Weaver  
State Superintendent of Education