

Library Materials Selection and Adoption

The primary objective of the library program is to implement the goals of the school system. The Board of Education is legally responsible for all matters relation to the operation of the schools. The responsibility for the selection of library materials is delegated to the professionally certified librarians employed by the district. The responsibility for approval of library material selection lies with the Library Services Coordinator in cooperation with Building Principals.

The Board recognizes the right of parents to request that their child not be given specified materials. The Board denies the right of any parent or group of parents to unilaterally determine what materials may be used for students other than their own child. A parent may request a re-evaluation of library materials (see exhibit), following the procedure outlined (see Regulation).

Through a continuous yearly evaluation, library materials which are worn out, outdated, or no longer useful shall be withdrawn from the collection.

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following basic policies should guide their services:

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information enlightenment.
4. Libraries should challenge with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Selection Priorities

The materials to which this selection policy shall apply are those which are under the bibliographic control of the district library media centers. These materials may be printed (books, periodicals, newspapers, and pamphlets) or nonprint (charts, pictures, filmstrips, multimedia kits, records, cassettes, compact discs, slides, transparencies, films,

microfilms, and computer software). This selection policy does not apply to textbooks. The library materials selected will be chosen on the basis that they satisfy specific needs for a media center collection. Materials selected will:

- Enrich those areas in the collection where resource materials are lacking or inadequate to meet the demands of the curriculum;
- Satisfy the needs of new courses, teachers, students, administration or Board’
- Try to honor the requests of teachers, students and administration;
- Update areas in the collection affected by the passage of time, e.g., science, technology, social studies, and reference;
- Replace worn resource materials which have proved to be valuable items in the curriculum;
- Enrich the background of the students, and though not directly relate to any specific curriculum area, will help the students to make more intelligent judgments and decisions and gain appreciation for cultural and literary heritage of American citizens: and
- Be acquired throughout the school year within budgeted appropriations for the library materials and conform to the purchasing practices and policies of the district.

Criteria for Selection

First hand knowledge of book materials, preview, use of selective, evaluative, and recognized lists and reviews, and the purchase on approval or preview of nonbook materials is essential in the selection of all materials.

Materials offered as gifts to the library shall be judged by the criteria of this selection policy, and then accepted or rejected on the basis of the criteria.

Materials should:

1. Reflect the pluralistic character and culture of American society;
2. Foster respect for all people, including minority groups, women, and ethnic groups;
3. Present and analyze intergroup tension and conflict objectively, placing emphasis upon resolving social and economic problems;
4. Reflect the problems, aspirations, attitudes and ideals of society;
5. Be appropriate to the maturity of the student;
6. Enable and encourage students to develop as creative and responsible individuals by stimulating the greatest possible diversity of interests and abilities;
7. Provide a background of information which enables students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
8. Be recommended for individual students if the professional staff determines the materials are significant;
9. Present a reasonable balance of opposing sides of controversial issues so that students may develop the practice of critical reading and thinking;
10. Not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, or religious views of the author or producer;
11. Include factual pieces about all major religions;

12. Not be excluded merely because sexual incidents or profanity appear. The decision will be made on the basis of whether the book presents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with, and whether the book is of literary value; and
13. Be judged as a whole.

Effective dates: October 4, 1994