

() Required
(X) Local
(X) Notice

LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION

The Board of Education supports the establishment and maintenance in each building of library-media centers that provide services to students and staff. The Board delegates the responsibility to the Superintendent or his/her designee for the selection and purchase of materials and equipment.

The library-media staff will work closely with students, staff and administrative personnel in the selection and evaluation of materials for purchase.

In order to provide the Superintendent and his/her staff with guidance in the acquisition of instructional resource material, such as library books, references, audiovisuals, maps, etc., the Board endorses the guidelines below. Such resources will:

1. provide information that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served;
2. provide information that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
3. provide information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
4. provide information on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking;
5. provide information representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage;
6. include, in the body of works as a whole, characters and settings that reflect the racial, ethnic, cultural and religious makeup of the student body and the country;
7. promote the understanding and appreciation of culture, class, language, race, ethnicity and other differences that contribute to the diversity of American culture; and
8. place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to ensure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the selection of resource materials within the aforesaid guidelines and for the determination of factual accuracy, readability, authoritativeness, integrity and quality of format. To assist in the selection process, reputable, unbiased professionally prepared aids (such as the Horn Book, School Library Journal, etc.) shall be consulted as guides.

In order to respond to any complaints about, or challenges to, the selection of library materials, the district has adopted regulations (1420-R, Complaints About Curricula or

Instructional Materials Regulation) establishing a complaint procedure and providing for a committee to review such complaints or challenges.

If any person wishes to permanently remove materials from a school district library, he/she must seek the formal approval of the Board. The Board may determine whether such materials should be removed. Such determination must not be based upon official suppression of ideas, but rather upon the educational suitability of the materials in question. The Superintendent may authorize permanent removal of instructional materials only with the approval of the Board.

Cross-ref: 1420, Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials

Ref: Education Law §§1709(15); 1711(5)(f)
Board of Educ., Island Trees UFSD v. Pico, 457 US 853 (1982)

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