

SELECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Policy 361.1

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The Board of Education shall provide educational materials and equipment that support and enrich the curriculum and further the achievement to the District's instructional goals.

The selection of textbooks, supplementary books, and reference books is carried on continuously in order to keep up with the great expansion of knowledge and the rapid changes going on in our world today. The Board recognizes its legal responsibility in the selection and adoption of all instructional materials (print and non- print) used in the school district.

Recognizing its need for professional expertise in the selection of materials, the Board delegates the responsibility for review and selection of materials to the district administrator and professional staff of the schools. The district administrator shall oversee the selection process. Instructional materials shall be selected in accordance with established guidelines. The primary objective of the school's educational media center is to implement, enrich and support the educational program of the school. It is the responsibility of the center to provide a wide range of media materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and the presentation of different points of view.

Objectives of Selection

Specifically, to assure that the library/media program is an integral part of the educational program of the school, the Board agrees to:

- a. Provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum and personal needs of the users, taking into consideration their varied interests, abilities, and learning styles.
- b. Provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
- c. Provide a background of information which will enable pupils to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
- d. Provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that users may develop under guidance the practice of critical analysis;
- e. Provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
- f. Provide current, up-to-date materials which represent the best range of information and ideas encompassing as full a spectrum of knowledge and theory as is available;

- g. Place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive, balanced, current media collection appropriate for the users at all levels and in all buildings.
- h. Provide information in a variety of formats, to accommodate the varied abilities, interests, and needs of the students.

Certified media personnel are designated to coordinate media purchases to guarantee that collections are balanced and current. They are charged with the responsibility of evaluating building collection and curriculum needs, being cognizant of student and faculty interests, current trends in library science and education, attending curriculum related meetings, and staying informed professionally and personally as an educator and media specialist.

Responsibility for Selection

The responsibility for the selection of instructional materials is delegated to the professionally trained personnel employed by the school system. Selection of materials involves many people; principals, teachers, supervisors, students, and media specialists. The responsibility for coordinating the selection of instructional materials and making the recommendation for purchase rests with the professionally trained media personnel.

The option is always open for a parent to object to specific educational materials being used with his/her child as part of the educational program. However, no parent or organization has the right to abridge the rights of other parents or children to have access to materials, which are part of the School District's educational program. Any adult resident or employee of the School District may raise objection to materials used in the educational program. Every effort should be made to initially resolve this concern informally at the building level with the building principal and library-media specialist. If that is unsuccessful, a formal complaint should be filed with the building principal using the "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials" (361.1 Exhibit).

The District shall not discriminate in selection and evaluation of instructional and library materials or media on the basis of sex, race, religion, national

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origin, color, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap. Discrimination complaints shall be handled in accordance with established procedures.

Legal References:

Cross References:

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