

SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

A. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION

The Board of Education, as the governing body of the School District, is legally responsible for the selection of library materials. The Board delegates to professional personnel of the District the authority for the selection of materials in accordance with this policy.

Materials for the School libraries shall be selected by library media specialists in consultation with the administration, faculty, and students. Final decision on purchase shall rest with the Superintendent or his/her designee.

B. OBJECTIVES OF SELECTION

The primary objective of the school libraries shall be to implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. Other objectives are concerned with:

1. the development of reading skill, literary appreciation, discrimination in choice of materials.
2. instruction in the use of books and libraries.

C. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. Needs of the individual school, based on knowledge of the curriculum and requests from administrators and teachers.
2. Needs of the individual student, based on knowledge of children and youth, and on requests of parents and students.
3. Provision of high quality materials.
4. Provision of wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with a diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view.

To clarify more specifically this last criterion, since school libraries are concerned with generating understanding of American freedoms and with the preservation of these freedoms through the development of informed and responsible citizens, it shall be the responsibility of the school libraries to:

- a. Provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of students served.
- b. Provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, and social awareness.

- c. Provide a foundation of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily life.
- d. Provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking.
- e. Provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
- f. Place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

D. TOOLS FOR SELECTION

Reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared selection aids shall be consulted as guides.

Every member of the instructional staff will be given an opportunity to recommend selections through the Library-Media Specialist.

Gift materials shall be judged by the criteria outline and shall be accepted or rejected according to those criteria.

E. CHALLENGED MATERIALS

Since the following subjects are sometimes topics of criticism, these shall be the Board's policies concerning them:

1. Religion - Factual, unbiased material which represents all major religions shall be included in the library collection.
2. Ideologies - The libraries shall, without making any effort to sway the reader's judgment, make available factual information on the level of its reading public, on any ideology or philosophy which exerts a strong force, either favorably or unfavorably in government, current events, politics, education, or any other part of life.
3. Sex and Profanity - Factual material of an educational nature, on the level of the intended reader, shall be included in the library collections. Materials presenting accounts of sex shall be subjected to a stern test of literary merit and reality by the Library-Media Specialist, who shall take into consideration the reading public and accepted moral standards in the community. While sensational or overdramatic material is inappropriate in the public schools, the appearance of sexual incidents or profanity shall not automatically disqualify a book. Rather, the decision shall be made on the basis of whether circumstances are realistically presented, and whether the book is of literary value.

F. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING QUESTIONED OR CHALLENGED MATERIALS

1. Any resident or employee of the School District may challenge the learning resources used in the District's educational program on the basis of appropriateness. The Superintendent will establish procedures for the purpose of considering the opinions of those persons in the School and the community who are not directly involved in the selection process.
2. Criticism shall be presented in writing and shall include author, title, publisher, page number of each item to which objection is being made, the reasons for the objections within the context of the material being challenged, and the signature of the person making the objection.
3. The review of questioned materials shall be treated objectively as an important matter. Every effort shall be made to meet with those persons or groups questioning school materials to consider their objections. The best interests of the students, the community, the school, and the curriculum shall be paramount.

APPROVED: BOARD OF EDUCATION
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