

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS SELECTION

The Board of Education, as the governing body of the school district, is legally responsible for the selection of library media center materials, including the selection and approval of printed and non-printed materials for staff and student use. Since the Board is primarily a policy-making body, the Superintendent is charged with establishing staff protocols for:

- Staff selection of appropriate materials;
- Staff and student adherence to copyright law;
- Staff weeding of instructional materials.
- Staff response to complaints and challenges regarding instructional materials.

The Board endorses the guidelines approved by the American Library Association that such resources:

- Provide information that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served;
- Provide information that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
- Provide information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
- Provide information on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
- Provide information representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage; and
- Place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in selection of materials of highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library media center.

Library media specialists shall select 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.) are recommended for library media specialist use 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 that 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. Only the Board and/or the Superintendent may authorize said permanent removal of instructional materials, pursuant to the decision 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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