

SUBJECT: SELECTION OF LIBRARY AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

The Board of Education agrees that the responsibility of the school library is:

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

In interpreting these principles, the following will apply:

- a) Broad and varied collections will be developed systematically by the librarian and the audiovisual specialist, based on recommendations of the professional staff and suggestions of students and parents/guardians and/or persons in parental relation. Final approval will be made by the building principal.
- b) Qualitative standards of selection involving factual accuracy, authoritativeness, artistic quality and appeal will be applied by librarians and audiovisual specialists before purchases are made.
- c) Materials will not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political opinions or religious views of the author.
- d) Materials will be continuously re-evaluated in relation to changing curriculum and instructional needs. Worn out, out-dated materials will be discarded.

Rules of the Board of Regents Section 21.4

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SUBJECT: OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, LIBRARY BOOKS, TEXTS, and/or MEDIA

The Board of Education will not permit any individual to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but recognizes that at times a re-evaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use, the procedure outlined below will be followed;

1. The complaint should be written to the teacher or library media specialist as appropriate and specifically cite the content they deem objectionable, and include title, author, and page number.
2. Should the complaint not be satisfactorily addressed, the matter will be referred to the Building Principal and the Instructional Material Review Committee. The committee will include the librarian, principals, and two teachers who will review the challenged material and upon reaching consensus will make recommendations to the Superintendent concerning the disposition of the complaint.
3. If the complaint should remain unresolved, the complainant may appeal to the Board of Education, whose decision will be final.

Parents are encouraged to discuss with the child(ren) which materials and content are appropriate for them and which types of materials they do and do not want them to check out of the library.

The Board of Education will be notified of any complaint referred to the Instructional Material Review Committee. The committee will review the challenged material according to the principles and qualitative standards stated in Policy #8320 -- Selection of Library and Audiovisual Materials.

Curriculum Areas In Conflict With Religious Beliefs

A student may be excused from the study of specific materials if these materials are in conflict with the religion of his/her parent/guardian and/or persons in parental relation. Alternatives may be provided that are of instructional value.

Education Law Section 3204(5)

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #8360 -- Religious Expression in the Instructional Program

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