

625 MEDIA AND BOOK SELECTION

I. OBJECTIVE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION MEDIA CENTER

The primary objective of the school and educational media center is to enrich and support the educational program of the school. It is the policy of the school district 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. The media staff is responsible for organizing and arranging materials to provide easy access, and for a continual evaluation of the collection to keep it relevant.

A. Selection of Material for the Media Center Collections

While selection of media materials may involve many people, the responsibility of coordinating and recommending the selection of most media materials rests with the licensed media professionals. Final recommendations will be made to the principal for purchase. Critical reviews, recommended lists, publishers' announcements, reading and previewing are all to be used to varying degrees in the selection process.

Since the primary objective of the media center is to enrich and support the educational program of the school, criteria for media materials selections should reflect this objective. Materials are considered on the basis of the following criteria as they apply:

1. Support, and be consistent with, the educational goals of the district.
2. Be selected to enrich and support the curriculum and to meet the individual needs and interests of users.
3. Be appropriate for the age, social development, and maturity of the users.
4. Provide a global perspective and foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity by including materials by authors and illustrators of all cultures.
5. Be selected in a variety of formats most suitable for intended use.
6. Represent differing viewpoints on controversial topics.
7. Exhibit a high degree of potential user appeal and interest.

The school may accept gift materials and integrate them into the general collection if they meet selection criteria.

The media center is to contain collections of materials that support the current school curriculum. Frequent weeding of materials is necessary to keep the collections current and provide shelf space for more useful materials. The media center materials that are no longer in use will be repurposed or disposed of.

No child will be prevented from reading or viewing any school materials in which he/she has an interest. However, reasonable efforts will be made to comply with requests from parents that certain materials be withheld from their children. On the other hand, no child shall be forced to read or view any materials to which he/she objects based on a genuinely held belief.

B. Teacher Selected Materials

Materials selected for classroom use may include both print and non-print formats as well as fiction and nonfiction. Classroom materials have their primary justification to support the curriculum. Although a textbook may contain the entire curriculum content of a course of study, more commonly, a variety of materials are used. Assumptions underlying the latter practice include the following:

1. People often are better informed for having considered a subject from various points of view.
2. Students in any subject at any given grade level have a wide range of skills and abilities. An equally wide range of materials is needed to match these individual differences.
3. Access to adequate collections of materials is essential to programs that provide students with independent study time.
4. Because the curriculum may not include items of personal relevance of students, access to a wide range of materials is essential.
5. Teachers can be more flexible and creative if a wide variety of materials are available.

II. RECONSIDERATION OF MEDIA AND BOOK SELECTIONS

A. Occasional objections to materials will be made, despite the quality of the selection process. The school board supports principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the School Library Bill of Rights of the American Association of School Librarians, the Library Bill of Rights of the American Association, and the Students' Right to Read of the National Council of Teachers of English.

B. The school district shall provide a process for members of the school district community to seek reconsideration of the use of media and book selections.

C. The superintendent [or designee] shall be responsible for the development of guidelines and procedures to identify the steps to be followed to seek reconsideration of the use of media and book selections.

Cross References: District 110 Policy #606 Textbook and Instructional Materials
District 110 Policy #698 Teaching about Controversial Topics

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