

LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION

The Board of Education supports the establishment and maintenance in each building of library-media centers, which provide services to students and staff. The Board delegates the responsibility of the selection and purchase of materials and equipment to the Superintendent of Schools or a designee thereof.

The District's library-media staff will work closely with students, staff, and administrative personnel in the selection and evaluation of materials for purchase.

In order to provide the Superintendent and District staff with guidance in the acquisition of instructional resource material, such as library books, references, audiovisuals, maps, etc., the Board endorses the following guidelines that such resources:

1. provide information that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served;
2. provide information that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
3. provide information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
4. provide information on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
5. provide information representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage;
6. include, in the body of works as a whole, characters and settings which reflect the racial, ethnic, cultural and religious makeup of the student body and the country as a whole;
7. promote the understanding and appreciation of culture, class, language, race, ethnicity and other differences that contribute to the diversity of American culture; and
8. 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.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the selection of resource materials within the previously referenced 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.) shall be consulted 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.

Any person wishing to permanently remove materials from a District library 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
1420 R, Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials

Ref: Education Law §§1709(15); 2554; 2566
Board of Educ., Island Trees UFSD v. Pico, 457 US 853 (1982)

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