

LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION

The Board of Education is legally responsible for the approval of all printed and non-printed library materials. Since the Board is primarily a policy-making body, it delegates the authority for the selection of materials to teachers, principals, librarians, etc., under the leadership of the Superintendent of Schools.

In order to provide the Superintendent and his/her staff with guidance in the acquisition of instructional resource material, such as library books, references, audiovisuals, maps, etc., the Board endorses the guidelines approved by the American Library Association 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; and
6. 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 aforesaid guidelines and for the determination of factual accuracy, readability, authoritativeness, integrity and quality of format.

The Board has adopted regulations (1420-R, Complaints About Curricula or Instructional Materials Regulation) establishing a complaint procedure and providing for a committee to review any complaints or challenges to the selection of library materials.

Any person wishing to permanently remove materials from a school district library must seek the formal approval of the Board which then may determine whether 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 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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