

## LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION

The Board of Education acknowledges its responsibility to ensure the maintenance of the school library/media center. There shall be a library in each school building adequately equipped with books, periodicals, and other material suitable for the age and maturity of the students to be served.

An adequate staff of trained librarians shall be employed whose duty it shall be to instruct students in the use of the library, advise and assist teachers regarding materials available, to check out materials to students and teachers (and, in the high school, to parents) and to supervise students while they are in the library. Audio-visual equipment and software may be stored in and issued from the libraries of the district when so arranged by the Building Principals.

The Board, as the governing body of the school district, is legally responsible for the selection of library materials, including the selection and approval of printed and non-printed materials for its use. Since the Board is primarily a policy-making body, it delegates to the following professional personnel of the district the authority for the selection of materials: 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. 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 a policy (1420) establishing a complaint procedure and providing for a committee to review such complaints or challenges.

Only the Board and/or the Superintendent may authorize the permanent removal of instructional materials. Such determination must not be based upon official suppression of ideas, but rather upon the educational suitability of the materials in question.

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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