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District 77 Policy 606

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606 TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for selection of textbooks and instructional materials.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes that selection of textbooks and instructional materials is a vital component of the school district's curriculum. The school board also recognizes that it has the authority to make final decisions on selection of all textbooks and instructional materials.

III. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

It shall be entirely within the School Board's discretion and legal responsibility to select instructional resources. The School Board delegates responsibility to the staff of the district for the actual selection of the resources.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY OF SELECTION

A. While the school board retains its authority to make final decisions on the selection of textbooks and instructional materials, the school board recognizes the expertise of the professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be primarily involved in the recommendation of textbooks and instructional materials. Accordingly, the school board delegates to the superintendent the responsibility to direct the professional staff in formulating recommendations to the school board on textbooks and other instructional materials.

B. Criteria for the Selection of Resources

Selection of resources shall be constant with the following principles:

1. To consider the characteristics and philosophy of the school and community when selecting resources.
2. To select resources which will meet needs, find use, reflect current research, and meet current standards of excellence.
3. To provide resources that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking

into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the individuals served.

4. To provide resources that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards.
 5. To provide a background of information which will enable individuals to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
 6. To provide resources relative to controversial issues so that individuals may develop informed opinions and practice critical reading and thinking.
 7. To provide resources representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
 8. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of resources of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users.
 9. To anticipate and meet needs through awareness of subjects of current interest.
 10. To permit grade-level instruction for students to read and study America's founding documents, including documents that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of America's representative form of limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and patriotism; and
 11. To not censor or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in original source documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records.
- C. Specific content-related criteria will be followed per the District Materials Selection and Evaluation Form.
- D. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing procedures and guidelines to establish an orderly process for the review and recommendation of textbooks and other instructional materials by the professional staff. Such procedures and guidelines shall provide opportunity for input and consideration of the views of students, parents and other interested members of the school district community. This procedure shall be coordinated with the school district's curriculum development effort and may utilize advisory committees.

V. SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The Director of Teaching and Learning shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of progress on the part of staff and others involved in the

textbook and other instructional materials review and selection process.

- B. The Director of Teaching and Learning shall present a recommendation to the school board on the selection of textbooks and other instructional materials after completion of the review process as outlined in this policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction - Curriculum)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.235 (American Heritage Education)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 2 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (School Board Responsibilities)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59-124D.61 (Limited English Proficiency)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.10 (State Officials and School Board Members to be Disinterested; Penalty)
Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S. Ct. 562, 98 L.Ed.2d 592 (1988)
Board of Educ. v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 589, 875 S.Ct. 675, 17 L.Ed. 2d 629 (1967)
Pratt v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 831, 670 F.2d 771 (8th Cir. 1982)
Webster v. New Lenox Sch. Dist., 917 F.2d 1004 (7th Cir. 1990)

Cross References: District 77 Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
District 77 Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
District 77 Procedures Manual - Procedures for Reconsideration of Textbooks or Other Instructional Materials