

Instruction

Evaluation of Instructional Materials

Instructional and library materials shall be evaluated consistently and systematically to insure they meet high instructional standards and comply with Connecticut General Statutes, regulations of the State Board of Education, Board of Education policy and regulations.

The Board of Education, though it has final responsibility for all purchases, recognizes the student's right to free access to many types and formats of instructional materials and library resources, including digital content. The Board also recognizes the right of teachers, library media specialists and administrators to select resources in accordance with current trends in education and to make such materials available in the schools.

It is the responsibility of the school district to provide a wide range of materials of various levels of difficulty and representing differing points of view. Teachers, library media specialists, and administrators will provide materials with opposing viewpoints on controversial issues to afford students the opportunity to develop the necessary critical thinking skills to become discriminate users of information and productive members of society. Instructional and library materials should be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, maturity, ability level, learning styles, and social, emotional, and intellectual development of the students for whom the materials are selected.

Instructional and library materials will be selected for their ability to instill in each child a sense of pride in the student's individuality and provide insight into the experiences and identities of others. Materials should provide a global perspective and promote diversity by including authors and illustrators of all cultures. Within the school district, different schools may have different needs. In addition to core materials each school provides to support the curriculum, each school may have different priorities in selecting its materials for classrooms and the library.

In providing access to a variety of materials, the district may find that some materials are offensive and/or controversial to members of the school community. The school district cannot reject and remove a resource because an individual or a group has found the material objectionable. Access to material that may be controversial must be provided while also providing a process by which individuals or groups may formally request reconsideration of materials they find offensive or inaccurate.

Administration will develop and maintain procedures for the selection of materials that meet the district's criteria and for the formal reconsideration of material individuals or groups find offensive.

Instruction

Evaluation of Instructional Materials

(cf. 6141.1 Curriculum/Textbook Adoption)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-18a Contents of Textbooks and Other General Instructional Materials

Policy adopted: June 14, 2005

Policy revised: April 2019

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Hamden, Connecticut