

BOARD POLICY: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

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Definition: Instructional Materials are resources that support the curriculum.

Section A

The Board of Education is committed to the development of an informed and responsible citizenry. As elected community officials, the Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to be sensitive to community standards in the performance of its duties. The Board of Education also recognizes that, in a pluralistic society, differing points of view exist which cannot be ignored because of partisan or doctrinal preferences. Thus, the Board of Education affirms each student's access to Instructional Materials which may reflect a variety of values and entrusts to the professional judgment of the administration and teaching staff the selection of appropriate Instructional Materials. To ensure a comprehensive and balanced education, principle and reason, not personal opinion or prejudice, should guide the selection of materials. Materials shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, or religious views of the author/creator. All District classrooms and learning centers should be equipped with an evenly-proportioned assortment of Instructional Materials. These materials should provide quality learning experiences for students and:

- 1) enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of the pupils served;
- 2) stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
- 3) present varied points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times -- international, national, and local -- so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
- 4) be based on the values of interest and enlightenment of all students in the community;
- 5) depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society, and
- 6) contribute to a sense of the worth of people regardless of sex, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or other differences that may exist.

Section B

1. The Board of Education will approve and make available to students all required textbooks and other Instructional Materials which are requirements of any approved curricular offering or are required to be purchased by students in District #225.
2. Supplemental Instructional Materials that are not required do not need the approval of the Board of Education provided each student is given the option to choose alternate material which, in the teacher's judgment, would satisfy the course requirements.

Section C

Anyone may inspect any textbook or instructional material upon request.

Section D

Teachers are encouraged to use supplemental material only when it will enhance, or otherwise illustrate, the subjects being taught and to ensure that such material is age-appropriate. No R-rated movie shall be shown to students unless prior approval is received from the Superintendent or designee, and no movie rated NC-17 (no one 17 and under admitted) shall be shown under any circumstances. These restrictions also apply to television programs and other media with equivalent ratings.

Approved: April 7, 1975
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