

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP

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MEDIA CENTER (LIBRARY)

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2427 MEDIA CENTER (LIBRARY)

The Board of Education, as the governing body of the school district, is legally responsible for the selection of library materials. Since the Board is a policy-making body, it delegates to professional personnel of the district the authority for the selection of materials in accordance with this policy.

The primary objective of the media centers/libraries shall be to implement, enrich and support the educational program of the schools. Other objectives are the development of reading skill, literary taste, and discrimination in choice of materials, and instruction in the use of books, reference materials and libraries.

Materials selected shall be based on:

1. Needs of the individual schools based on knowledge of the curriculum and on request from administrators and teachers;
2. Needs of the individual student considering knowledge of children and youth and on request of parents/guardians and students.
3. High artistic and literary quality;
- 4 Superior format;
5. Levels of difficulty, with a diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view.

To carry out these criteria the Board of Education affirms the School Library Bill of Rights endorsed by the American Library Association. The school media center (library) shall:

1. Provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of the students served;
2. Provide a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments;



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3. Provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards;
4. Provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
5. Provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage;
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.

Special care must be given to adhering to criteria when dealing with the following subjects:

1. Religion - Factual, unbiased material which represents all major religions may be included in the library collections.
2. Ideologies - The libraries shall make available basic, factual information on the level of their reading public on an ideology or philosophy which exerts a strong force either favorably or unfavorably in government.
3. Sex and profanity - Materials presenting some aspect of sex shall be subjected to a stern test of literary merit and reality by the librarian who takes into consideration both reading public and accepted public moral standards. The fact of sexual incidents or profanity appearing shall not automatically disqualify a book. Rather, the decision shall be made on the basis of whether the book presents true life, whether the book is of literary value, and whether circumstances are realistically dealt with. Many works of literature important in our culture contain isolated elements to which some individuals may object. However, the value and the impact of any literary work must be examined as a whole, and not in part. Factual material of an educational nature on the level of the reader shall be included.



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Reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared selection aids shall be consulted as guides.

Gifts from interested citizens will be accepted with the understanding:

1. They meet the same standards of selection applied to original purchases;
2. The librarian may offer the gift to another media center if it is not needed in the school;
3. The librarian may dispose of the gift if it is out of date or in poor physical condition, not warranting the cost of repair.

Information Processing Skills

The Board of Education believes that education must acquaint pupils with an accumulated store of knowledge and information beyond that contained in the curriculum. The instructional program shall include training in the skills that will give each pupil access to that knowledge and information, including the use of computers, and shall encourage the pupil toward independent research appropriate to the grade level.

The Superintendent shall develop, in consultation with appropriate teaching staff members, an information processing program. The program shall be of sufficient scope to apply to pupils at all grade levels and shall be sequentially developed. Where information processing is infused into a curricular area, a written description of the infusion shall be included in the course guide for that curriculum.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.6

N.J.A.C. 6:8-2.1(a)4i; 6:8-5A.2(a)3iv

N.J.A.C. 6:8-3.5(a)4

Adopted: 29 June 1998


