

Adopted: May 9, 2005

Revised: March 14, 2011; February 27, 2017, February 27, 2023

Reviewed: October 14, 2019

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. 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 superintendent or designee has the responsibility to direct the professional staff in formulating recommendations to the school board on textbooks and other instructional materials.

B. In reviewing textbooks and instructional materials during the selection process, the professional staff shall select materials that:

1. support the goals and objectives of the education programs;
2. consider the needs, age, and maturity of students;
3. are culturally relevant and foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity and varied opinion;
4. fit within the constraints of the school district budget;
5. are in the English language. Another language may be used, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 124D.61;
6. 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

7. do 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. The superintendent or designee 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.

IV. SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. The superintendent or designee 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.

V. RECONSIDERATION OF TEXTBOOKS OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. The school board recognizes differences of opinion on the part of some members of the school district community relating to certain areas of the instruction program. Interested persons may request an opportunity to review materials and submit a request for reconsideration of the use of certain textbooks or instructional materials.

B. The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the development of guidelines and procedures to identify the steps to be followed to seek reconsideration of textbooks or other instructional materials.

VI. USE OF DVDS/VIDEOS IN DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

A. DVDs/Videos selected for classroom and non-classroom should align with the goals of the district curriculum or program and the design of a specific lesson. The materials should lead to the completion of expressed performance outcomes, should enhance the total education program of the district, and should be appropriate to the developmental stage of the students.

DVDs/Videos should be used for instructional purposes. In the rare event that a DVD/Video is shown for entertainment the selection must comply with copyright regarding public performance rights and must be approved in advance by the building principal.

- B. The rating of any materials for viewing, unless prior approval is granted, must not exceed “G” for elementary students, “PG” for middle school students, and “PG13” for high school students according to the rating scheme developed by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction)
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 (Education for English Learners Act)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.10 (State Officials and School Board Members to be Disinterested; Penalty)
Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260(1988)
Pratt v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 831, 670 F.2d 771 (8th Cir. 1982)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)