

# **POLICY D22: SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

## **Policy**

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The school library plays an important role in helping students to inquire, to study and evaluate information, and to gain new understandings and knowledge. Therefore, library materials provided by the Orange Southwest School District (District), regardless of technology, format, or methods of delivery, should be readily, equally, and equitably accessible to all students.

This policy exists to ensure that the District provides access to a diverse library collection, that supports students in the curriculum, their personal research, and recreational reading, and that sustains students' First Amendment Rights to access information and to read freely.

## **Definitions**

For the purpose of this policy:

1. ***Library Materials*** include all materials considered part of the library collection, including but not limited to print, digital, and media production resources. Library materials may be found in both physical and virtual library spaces.
2. ***Educational Technology*** means instruction and/or preparation in the appropriate use of current technology to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to communicate, solve problems, and to access, manage, integrate, evaluate and create information.<sup>[1]</sup>
3. ***Diverse library collection*** means that the library collection intentionally contains content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences, including those from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities.

---

[1] SBE Rule 2114 (Definition of Educational Technology)

## **Access to Instructional Materials** <sup>[2]</sup>

Each school shall:

- a. provide a learning environment with sufficient supplies and infrastructure to allow for learning;
- b. develop, maintain, and expand as needed a library collection of print, digital and technology resources, administered by a certified library media specialist;
- c. ensure that the curriculum is supported by necessary digital and print resources;
- d. ensure that students, educators, administrators, and staff have access to an organized collection of digital and print materials sufficient and appropriate to support all students in meeting or exceeding the current state and national standards at no cost to the student;
- e. provide students access to the library on a regular basis to use materials for reading, research, and for instruction in the skills needed to select and use information effectively;
- f. provide access to a variety of up-to-date information, assistive, and other technology to support students in meeting or exceeding the standards;
- g. provide broadband internet service for students and educators to access educational resources;

- h. adopt and implement written policies on electronic resources, acceptable internet usage, and procedures for handling complaints for both staff and students;
- i. support a schedule that provides opportunities for a library media specialist to collaborate with educators as they integrate information research skills into their curriculum; and
- j. ensure that students are afforded the opportunity to learn the skills to locate, evaluate, synthesize, and to present information and ideas within content areas using technology integration.

**Administrative Responsibilities**

The superintendent or designee will develop and implement procedures that address the selection of library materials and the provision of access to those materials. The superintendent or designee will develop procedures to address:

- a. selection of materials;
- b. deselection of materials;
- c. donations of materials; and
- d. reconsideration of materials.

The superintendent or designee will ensure that the District provides services of a certified library media specialist to students and staff. Schools with over 300 students shall have at least one full-time library media specialist and sufficient staff to implement a program that supports literacy, information and technology standards. Schools with fewer than 300 students shall employ a library media specialist on a pro-rata basis.<sup>[3]</sup>

---

[2] SBE Rule 2122.2 (Access to Instructional Materials)

[3] SBE Rule 2121.2 (Staff)

**Use of School Library Materials and Resources**

The library media specialist may consult with faculty, the student body, community members and organizations to develop library collections that are diverse, inclusive, and representative of the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic groups and social groups.

At the discretion of the building principal, students, staff, and family members of the District may be allowed use of library materials and resources. However, such access shall not interfere with regular school use of those materials and resources.

<i>VSBA Version:</i>	<i>May 11, 2022</i>
<i>Date Warned:</i>	<i>March 16, 2023</i>
<i>Date Adopted:</i>	<i>April 12, 2023</i>
<i>Legal Reference(s):</i>	<i>16 V.S.A. §563(14) (Powers of school boards) State Board of Education Rules 2121.2 (Staff) State Board of Education Rules 2114 (Definition of Technology Integration) State Board of Education Rules 2122.2 (Access to Instructional Materials)</i>
<i>Cross Reference:</i>	<i>District Equity Policy (C29) Selection of Instructional Materials (D32)</i>