

Regulation 6161.1: Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/2010 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/01/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/01/2021

Review Process

The district's review process for evaluating instructional materials shall involve teachers in a substantial manner and shall encourage the participation of parents/guardians and community members in accordance with Education Code 60002. The review process may also involve administrators, other staff who have subject-matter expertise, and students as appropriate. The Superintendent or designee shall seek input from stakeholders with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

If the district is considering the use of instructional materials for grades K-8 that have not been adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE), the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a majority of the participants in the district's review process are classroom teachers who are assigned to the subject area or grade level of the materials. (Education Code 60210)

The Superintendent or designee may establish an advisory committee to conduct the review of instructional materials.

The Superintendent or designee shall present to the Governing Board recommendations for instructional materials and documentation that supports the recommendations.

All recommended instructional materials shall be available for public inspection at the district office.

When possible, the district may pilot instructional materials in a representative sample of classrooms for a specified period of time during a school year, in order to determine the extent to which the materials support the district's curricular goals and academic standards. Feedback from teachers piloting the materials shall be made available to the Board before the materials are adopted.

Criteria for Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

In recommending instructional materials for adoption by the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the materials:

1. Are aligned to the content standards adopted by SBE and consistent with the content and cycles of the curriculum framework adopted by SBE

For grades K-8, only instructional materials on the list of materials adopted by SBE and/or other instructional materials that have not been adopted by SBE but are aligned with the state academic content standards or the Common Core State Standards may be recommended for selection. (Education Code 60200, 60210)

For grades 9-12, instructional materials in history-social science, mathematics, English/language arts, and science shall be reviewed using a standards map in order to determine the extent to which the materials are aligned to state academic content standards.

2. Do not reflect adversely upon persons because of any characteristic specified in law and BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities, nor contain any sectarian or denominational doctrine or propaganda contrary to law (Education Code 51501, 60044)
3. To the satisfaction of the Board, are accurate, objective, current, and suited to the needs and comprehension of district students at their respective grade levels (Education Code 60045)
4. With the exception of literature and tradebooks, use proper grammar and spelling (Education Code 60045)

5. Do not expose students to a commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo unless the Board makes a specific finding that the use is appropriate based on one of the following: (Education Code 60048, 60200)
 - a. The commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo is used in text for an educational purpose as defined in guidelines or frameworks adopted by SBE.
 - b. The appearance of a commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo in an illustration is incidental to the general nature of the illustration.
6. Meet the requirements of Education Code 60040-60043 for specific subject content, including, but not limited, accurately portraying society's cultural and racial diversity
7. Support the district's adopted courses of study and curricular goals
8. Contribute to a comprehensive, balanced curriculum
9. Demonstrate reliable quality of scholarship as evidenced by:
 - a. Accurate, up-to-date, and well-documented information
 - b. Objective presentation of diverse viewpoints
 - c. Clear, concise writing and appropriate vocabulary
 - d. Thorough treatment of subject matter
10. Provide for a wide range of materials at all levels of difficulty, with appeal to students of varied interests, abilities, and developmental levels
11. Stimulate discussion of contemporary issues and improve students' thinking and decision-making skills
12. As appropriate, have corresponding versions available in languages other than English
13. Include high-quality teacher's guides
14. When available, include options for lighter weight materials in order to help minimize any injury to students by the combined weight of instructional materials

In addition to meeting the above criteria as applicable, technology-based materials shall:

1. Be both available and comparable to other, equivalent instructional materials (Education Code 60052)
2. Be accessible to all students, including economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English learners
3. Protect the privacy of student data

Conflict of Interest

To ensure integrity in the evaluation and selection of instructional materials, individuals who are participating in the evaluation of instructional materials and are not otherwise designated in the district's conflict of interest code shall sign a disclosure statement indicating that they:

1. Will not accept any emolument, money, or other valuable thing or inducement to directly or indirectly introduce, recommend, vote for, or otherwise influence the adoption or purchase of any instructional material (Education Code 60072)

Sample copies of instructional materials are excepted from this prohibition. (Education Code 60075)

2. Are not employed by nor receive compensation from the publisher or supplier of the instructional materials or any person, firm, organization, subsidiary, or controlling entity representing it
 3. Do not have an interest as a contributor, author, editor, or consultant in any textbook or other instructional material submitted to the district
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