

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

**Series 6000**  
**Instruction**

**Policy 6210**

**Instruction**

**PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION, CURRICULUM, TEXTBOOKS, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Mission of the Darien Public Schools is to inspire a love of learning in all students so they develop as critical thinkers and innovative creators who contribute to the world with integrity and purpose beyond themselves. To that end, the Darien Board of Education (the "Board") believes that it is the responsibility of the Darien Public Schools to:

- engage students in the pursuit of truth, knowledge, and wisdom;
- provide access to all points of view without promoting a specific political agenda or deliberately distorting the subject matter;
- foster in students the full understanding, application, and preservation of democratic principles and processes;
- guide students to acquire the requisite skills and understanding for participatory citizenship and to realize their obligation to be worthy and contributing members of society;
- promote the right and freedom of students to learn, explore ideas, develop learning skills, and acquire the necessary knowledge to achieve their full potential;
- develop within students fundamental critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques;
- nurture in students lifelong respect and compassion for themselves and other human beings regardless of any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics; and
- promote ongoing development and evaluation of curriculum.

Consistent with the educational objectives described above, it is the policy of the Board to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and guidance regarding the program of instruction offered in the Board's schools; the development and approval of curriculum; the selection of and changes to textbooks and other instructional materials; and the purchase of such books, supplies, material, and equipment as the Board deems necessary to meet the needs of instruction in its schools.

It is also the policy of the Board, consistent with applicable law, to establish a school district curriculum committee, which committee must recommend, develop, review, and approve all curriculum for the Board. To that end, the Board hereby establishes the District Curriculum Leadership Team (the "Team"), which shall serve as the Board's school district curriculum committee. It is the responsibility of the Team to approve curriculum, primary instructional materials such as textbooks and other instructional materials that will most effectively implement the educational objectives established by the Board as set forth above. The Team shall consist of members of the Darien Public Schools administration selected by the Superintendent whose names and titles will be posted on the Board's website. The Team may invite other individuals to attend its meetings and/or provide feedback as the Team may deem necessary or helpful.

The Board delegates authority to the Team to recommend, develop, review, and approve all curriculum for the Board, and to select textbooks and other instructional materials, subject to the following provisions:

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1. **Board Feedback.** The Team shall provide updates and opportunities for feedback to the Board regarding its work during each school year at such times as the Team and the Superintendent may determine, unless the Board requests updates and opportunities for feedback with more or less frequency.
2. **Addition of Courses.** The Team shall seek approval from the Board for any course it proposes to add to the Board's program of instruction.
3. **Removal of Courses.** The Team shall provide updates and opportunities for feedback to the Board regarding any course it intends to remove from the Board's program of instruction. The Board may, but shall not be required to, approve any such intended removal of a course.
4. **Textbook Changes.** Consistent with applicable law, the Board retains authority to change textbooks and shall not change any textbooks used in the Darien Public Schools except by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board. Notice of any such intended change must have been previously given at a meeting of the Board held at least one week previous to the vote upon such change. If the Board does change its textbooks pursuant to this section, the Board may donate the used textbooks to another board of education.
5. **Other Board Action.** Notwithstanding the Board's delegation of authority regarding curriculum to the Team, nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit the Board from taking action regarding any matter involving curriculum in a manner consistent with the Board's policies, bylaws, and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. However, the Board recognizes that any Board action regarding curriculum would occur only in extraordinary circumstances in which the Board, in consultation with the Team and the Superintendent, determines that Board action is necessary or appropriate.

### Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-16b](#)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-16ss](#)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-16tt](#)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-18a](#)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-18f](#)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-220](#)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-228](#)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § [10-229](#)

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 10-145d-400a (Connecticut Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers)

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 10-145d-400b (Connecticut Code of Professional Responsibility for School Administrators)

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**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**  
**Administrative Regulations**

**Instructional Materials Selection**

**I. Review and Selection of Materials**

Administrators, librarians, and teachers are responsible for the selection of appropriate educational material in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Board of Education Policy 6210.

In addition to the general policy guidelines, the following specific criteria are set forth below for greater clarification. Educational materials for purchase are to be considered on the basis of:

overall purpose

timeliness or permanence

importance of the subject matter

quality of the writing/production

readability and literary quality

authority and/or significance of the author/artist/composer/producer

format, durability and price

teachers', students' and parents' suggestions and recommendations

Material selection is more than a process of material acquisition: it involves a process of continuous review of instructional materials. Administrators and teachers will regularly review procedures to assure the currency and adequacy of their materials collections.

APPROVED: October 23, 2023