

**Regulation 6163.1: Library Media Centers**

**Status:** ADOPTED

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**SELECTION OF SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS**

The school library supports the educational program of the school. In addition, the school library should develop reading skill, literary taste, and discrimination in choice of materials and should provide instruction in the use of books and libraries. The school library should contribute to the development of social, intellectual, and moral values of the students.

The responsibility for the selection of library books and media is delegated to the school librarian with the approval of the principal or designee. If a professionally trained librarian is not employed by the school, the responsibility will rest with the library media technician, who will work with the principal, teachers, and district library personnel to select appropriate materials.

**Objectives of the Library Collection**

Specific objectives of a school library collection are as follows:

1. To provide resource materials, including digital, for teachers and teaching tools and materials to implement the curriculum.
2. To provide a balanced collection to include titles representative of all areas of the curriculum.
3. To provide students materials that will be most meaningful in their growth and development as individuals.
4. To provide materials that will meet the needs of differing age groups, levels of maturity, cultural backgrounds, and interests.
5. To provide materials to stimulate reading and growth in critical judgment and appreciation.
6. To provide materials and an atmosphere to help students become skillful and discriminating users of libraries and of printed and digital materials.
7. To provide materials that will help students develop a wide range of significant and helpful interests.
8. To provide materials that will promote an aesthetic experience and help develop an appreciation of the arts.
9. To provide materials that will help students make satisfactory personal adjustments and acquire desirable social attitudes.
10. To provide technology which will assist students in assessing, retrieving, and utilizing materials.
11. To provide a variety of materials to meet recreational and enrichment needs of students.
12. To provide materials that will encourage the habit of personal investigation.
13. To encourage lifelong education through the use of library resources.

**Criteria for Selection of Library Materials**

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of books and other reading materials:

1. Authority - Authoritative author and reliable publisher.
2. Scope - Overall purpose of materials and treatment of subject.
3. Accuracy - Factual accuracy of materials.
4. Timeliness - Current or permanent value.

5. Relevancy - Usefulness in supporting the curriculum.
6. Potential Use - Subject interest, demand, and importance to the collection.
7. Style - Literary quality, readability, suitability for the age level, and appeal to students for which it is intended.
8. Format - Paper, print, illustrations, and binding of good, attractive quality.
9. Special features - Index, bibliography, illustrations, and other helps.
10. Recommendations - First-hand evaluation or recommended by one or more reliable reviewing media.

In addition to these factors, the following will be considered when choosing digital materials:

1. Technical quality - Tone fidelity, clarity of focus, effective use of color, and synchronization of sound and image.
2. Physical characteristics - Ease in handling, durable, and attractive packaging.
3. Flexibility - Potential for extensive use in many curriculum areas.
4. Supporting material - Pertinent accompanying materials for students and a teacher's guide.
5. Training for effective use.

Books for recreational reading are an important part of a school library collection and will be selected to represent a well-rounded collection which is keyed to young people's need, interests, and level of maturity.

### **Gifts**

All gifts will be subjected to the same critical examination and criteria used in evaluating other materials recommended for purchase. No book or publication whose primary purpose is dissemination of propaganda shall be added to the library collection. Advertising through library materials is not acceptable. Final selection and acceptance for use shall be at the discretion of the professionally trained personnel in accordance with the same criteria as all materials.

### **Controversial Material**

Freedom of speech and free access to information are a cherished part of the democratic process and contribute to free discussion of controversial issues. Materials on controversial issues shall be presented by both sides of the issue and an attempt will be made to meet these additional criteria when selecting them:

1. Concepts are presented which are suitable to the ability and maturity of the students.
2. The sources, purposes, and points of view of the material are readily identifiable.
3. The material is free of stereotype role description and/or sexist bias.

While individual publications used in a study may be one-sided, the total material presented should provide a balanced view of the topic.

Special consideration should be given to the selection of materials on the following subjects:

1. **Religion:** Factual, unbiased material which represents all major religions of the world should be available.
2. **Ideologies:** Libraries should make available basic factual information on the level of its reading public on any ideology of philosophy which exerts a strong force, either favorably or unfavorably, in government, politics, education, or any other phase of life.
3. **Sexual Incidents:** Materials presenting incidents on sex should be subjected to a test of literacy merit. It is the District's objective to choose material that provides rich educational content appropriate to students in the District over material that may provide similar content but with elements that are inappropriate or

unnecessary for minors in a school setting. Sexual content is generally inappropriate and/or unnecessary for minors in school. As such, the District will prioritize the inclusion of quality materials suitable for educational goals that do not contain sexualized content.

4. **Obscenity, vulgarity, and profanity:** Books which contain profanity are not a desirable addition to the school collection; however, if the use of profanity in some mature fiction is necessary for the development of character or situation, opens a clearer vision of life, develops understanding of other people, or breaks down intolerance, then the librarian will exercise judgment as to whether the total merit and the literary quality of the book itself transcend the objectionable passage.

5. **Science:** Medical and scientific knowledge should be made available without any biased selection of facts.

It is the right and responsibility of teachers and librarians to select reading material which will comprise a carefully balanced, complete collection.

#### **Student Responsibility for Lost or Damaged Materials**

When a student returns a library item which is damaged beyond repair or if the item is not returned, the student and parents/guardians shall be billed for the full replacement cost of the book. The replacement cost is determined by using the current issue of Books in Print.

When an item receives minor damage and may be repaired, a partial charge may be made, e.g., a charge for the rebinding of the book.

Payments received for lost and damaged materials will be deposited in the "Library Book Replacement" account.

If a lost library item is found and returned in good condition, a full refund will be made following district accounting procedures.

#### **Reconsideration of Library Materials**

A parent/guardian, resident, or employee of the District may formally challenge library material on the basis of appropriateness. The staff member receiving a complaint about the appropriateness of a library material shall try to resolve the matter informally.

If the complainant wishes to file a formal request for reconsideration, a copy of this policy shall be provided to the complainant by the Superintendent or designee with instructions to submit the information requested below.

All formal concerns regarding library materials shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee and shall state: 1) the complainant's name and contact information, 2) the name/author of the library resource, 3) cite page numbers and specific information in the material to support the objections, 4) offer suggestions as to replacements that are of equal or better merit and which convey the same or similar educational purpose that may have led to the objected material being included in the library in the first place, 5) and state whether the complainant is requesting a reevaluation of the material's inclusion in the district library or is simply making a request that the material not be assigned to or checked out by the complainant's child.

The School Site Council shall serve as the District Review Committee. The Superintendent or designee shall review the complaint and the challenged material and, if appropriate, forward to the District Review Committee for consideration of whether it conforms to the principles of selection set out in this policy.

The District Review Committee shall convene, <sup>an open</sup> in a ~~private~~ session, <sup>within 15 business days of receipt of the</sup> ~~complaint~~ to review the materials in question. The time frame ~~may be extended to~~ align with <sup>shall</sup> regularly scheduled meetings <sup>the next</sup> of the School Site Council.

The major criterion for the final decision on challenged library material is the appropriateness of the resource for its intended educational use and intended audience of minor students. The plurality opinion in *Bd. of Educ. v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982), uses the standard that no challenged instructional resource shall be removed because of the ideas expressed therein. Removal of materials may be based upon the lack of educational suitability of the library material, lack of appropriateness for minors such as sexualized content, and for pervasive profanity or vulgarity. It need not rise to the levels of obscene material or material which would violate criminal laws in order to warrant replacing the material with better options.

The committee's written decision and its justification shall be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee ~~for final review~~. Thereafter, the ~~decision~~ will be provided to the complainant. If the complainant remains unsatisfied, the decision may be appealed to the Governing Board. The decision of the Governing Board shall be final. ~~(AR1312.2)~~

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superintendent or designee

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communicate the school site Council's decision to the complainant.