LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The Board of Education recognizes that the responsibility of the school library is to:

1. provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served;
2. provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
3. provide information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
4. provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
5. provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage; and
6. place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

Initial purchase suggestions for library materials will be accepted from all personnel – teachers, coordinators and administrators. Students also shall be encouraged to make suggestions. The professional library staff shall be responsible for evaluation and recommendation of all library materials to be included in the school library, subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board shall have final authority for selection and adoption of all library materials.

Gifts of the library books shall be accepted in keeping with the above policy on selection. Complaints about library books will be handled in the same manner as complaints about instructional materials.

The following are the criteria for selection of school library materials:

1. the primary purpose of the collection is to provide print and digital materials which will complement and enrich the curriculum in all areas;
2. the library collection must meet the varied reading interests and abilities of all students;
3. the materials provided must encourage critical judgement and evaluation, encourage and stimulate the development of interests, and promote understanding of others and other viewpoints by providing a window into our increasingly diverse world, with the goal of meeting our district’s mission to ignite a passion in each student by engaging all students at a personal level to ensure success in a global society.

Cross-ref: 4524, School Libraries

Ref: Education Law §§1709(15); 1711(5)(f)

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