

SELECTION AND CHALLENGING OF LIBRARY MEDIA MATERIALS

Philosophy:

The school library media center is a comprehensive learning center where a full range of media materials which represent the primary information resources of the instructional program are made available to students, teachers, parents, and community members. The resources of the center are fundamental to the educational process.

Policy:

The legal responsibility for materials in the library media collection rests solely on the West Noble Board of Education. Materials for the library media centers should be selected by professional personnel in consultation with administration, faculty, and students. Recommendation for purchase rests with the library media specialist (or certified personnel serving in that position) and is subject to approval by the building principal and the superintendent.

Objective:

The primary objective of the library media center is to implement, enrich and support the educational program of the school; therefore, the duty of the media personnel is to provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with a diversity of appeal and representing varying points of view. The library media program is concerned with: 1) the development of reading skill, literary taste, discrimination in choosing materials, and 2) instruction on the location and use of the library media center's various resources.

The library media center should contribute to the development of the social, intellectual, and spiritual values of the students.

Evaluation and selection:

The selection of materials is a continuous process due to constantly changing needs and the ongoing creation of new materials. The selection process shall include the participation of administrators, teachers, support

staff, and students, and shall be coordinated by the library media specialist (or certified personnel serving in that position).

Criteria for the selection of library media materials are as follows:

1. Needs of the individual building
 - a. based on knowledge of the curriculum
 - b. based on requests from administrators and teachers
2. Needs of the individual student
 - a. based on knowledge of children and youth
 - b. based on requests of parents and students
3. Provision of a wide range of materials and resources on all levels of difficulty, with a diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view
4. Provision of materials of high literary and artistic quality
5. Provision of materials with superior format

Gifts:

The library media program welcomes the offer of donations of books and other materials- from individuals or organizations, but reserves the right to accept or decline specific items on a case-by-case basis. To be accepted as a gift, an item must meet the same standards *as* any similar item being considered for purchase.

Weeding:

Materials shall be weeded from the collections by the library media specialist (or certified personnel serving in that position), who exercises the same professional judgment and authority in weeding as in selecting materials for acquisition. Weeding decisions are subject to the approval of the building principal.

Challenged Materials:

In the event of a challenge to the appropriateness of specific materials in the school library media center's collection, the principle of the freedom to read and the professionalism involved in the selection process will be considered, as well as the suitability of the material.

A request to remove material from the school library that meets the legal definition of obscene (as described in **IC 35-49-2-1**) or harmful to minors (as described in **IC 35-49-2-2**) may be started by completing the **Library Materials Removal Request**. (Addendum 1)

West Noble School Board Policy 9130- Public Complaints and Concerns

Matters Regarding School Library Materials © Neola 2023

If a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a school in the School Corporation or a community member residing within the Corporation submits a request to remove material that they contend is obscene or harmful to minors from a school library, the following procedure shall be followed:

- A. The request is to be presented to the Superintendent, in writing, and shall include:
 1. author;
 2. title;
 3. publisher;
 4. the requester's familiarity with the objectionable material;
 5. sections objected to, by page and item;
 6. reasons for objection.
- B. Upon receipt of the information the Superintendent shall after advising the school board and building principal of the request, appoint a review committee which may consist of:

1. one or more professional staff members including the Media Specialist;
 2. one or more Board members.
- C. The review committee, in evaluating the questioned material, shall be guided by the following criteria:
1. the appropriateness of the material for the age and maturity level of the students who have access to it
 2. obscene matter or performance as defined by state law IC 35-49-2-1
 3. matter or performance harmful to minors as defined by state law IC 35-49-2-2
- D. The material in question may be withdrawn from use pending the review committee's recommendation to the Superintendent.
- E. The review committee's recommendation shall be reported to the Superintendent in writing within thirty (30) business days per book following the formation of the review committee. The Superintendent will advise the individual making the request, in writing, of the review committee's recommendation and advise the Board of the action taken or recommended.
- F. The individual who filed the request may appeal this decision, within thirty (30) business days, to the Board through a written request to the Superintendent, who shall forward the request and all written material relating to the matter to the Board.
- G. The Board shall review the request and decision at the next public meeting after an appeal is submitted. The Board shall advise the complainant, in writing, of its decision within thirty (30) business days.

No challenged material may be removed from the curriculum, school library, or from a collection of resource materials except by action of the Board, and no challenged material may be removed solely because it presents ideas that may be unpopular or offensive to some without it being obscene or harmful to minors. Any Board action to remove material will be accompanied by the Board's statement of its reasons for the removal.