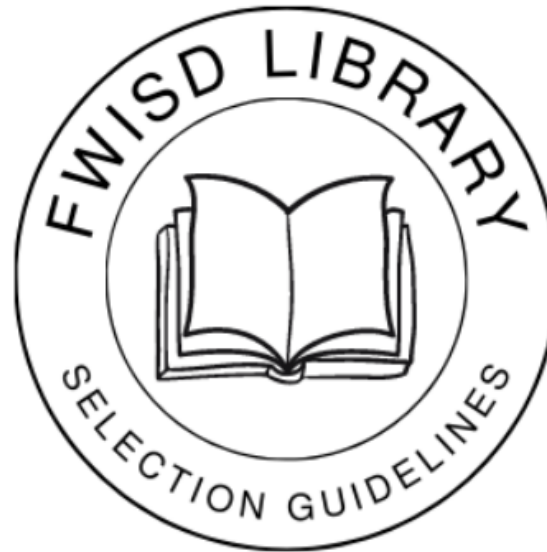


**integral to the  
Instructional  
program**

(EF LOCAL, SC., 6)

**literary or  
artistic value  
and merit**

(EF LOCAL, SC., 6)



**present  
information with  
the greatest  
degree of  
accuracy and  
clarity**

(EF LOCAL, SC., 6)

**reflect the  
interests and  
needs of the  
students and  
faculty**

(EF LOCAL, SC., 6)

**maintain a balanced  
collection representing  
various views**

(EF LOCAL, CI)

**appropriate for the age, ability level,  
learning styles, and social and  
emotional development of the  
students for whom they are selected.**

(EF LOCAL, SC., 3)

# FWISD LIBRARY BOOK SELECTION CRITERIA

(Aligns with Board Policy EF Local, all books must meet all criteria)

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## ALL CRITERIA MUST BE MET

- 1. Integral to the instructional program.** Books in the library are designed to support content knowledge, process skills, or both. Books whose main subjects do not appear directly in the TEKS are intended to support the development of reading and thinking skills. There is a correlation between interest-based reading selections and academic performance. Research shows that students who read books of interest read more often and perform better in reading than their counterparts.
- 2. Reflect the interests and needs of students and faculty.** Librarians use information from their needs analysis, such as circulation data, student and faculty suggestions, curricular topics, and current events, to identify student and faculty needs. Not all books may interest all students, but all students should find something of interest to them and see themselves and others reflected in the materials.
- 3. Appropriate for students' reading levels and understanding.** A book needs to have two professional reviews\* for at least two of the grade levels served (or a level below), except for early childhood campuses, which may purchase books with reviews including birth through 1st grade.
  - a. Middle Grade (MG) novels are traditionally geared toward ages 9-13.
  - b. Young Adults (YA) may only be purchased at secondary campuses. Be cautious that the characters' age matches your students' ages.
  - c. Materials rated Adult may only be purchased at high schools and must be read by two librarians at two different schools before purchasing/circulating.
  - d. If reviews contain age recommendations that span multiple levels (ex. 5-8th grade or YA), look at the ages of the characters and the theme(s) of the book to determine if it is an appropriate fit for your students.
  - e. The most common age range should be used if three or more professional reviews can be found.
  - f. Sexually explicit material is prohibited from being possessed, acquired, or purchased. HB 900 prohibits sexually explicit material in text, images, photographics, video, or audio that describes, depicts, or portrays sexual conduct as defined by Sec. 43.25 Penal Code in a "patently offensive." way. Sexually relevant material "means any communication, language, or material, including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, other than library material directly related to the curriculum required under Section 28.0029a), that describes, depicts, or portrays sexual conduct, as defined by Section 43.35, Penal Code (35.001). "A school district . . . may not allow a student enrolled in the district . . . to reserve, check out, or otherwise use outside the school library material the library material vendor has rated as sexually relevant material under Section 35.002(a) unless the district or school first obtains written consent from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation."
- 4. Included because of their literary or artistic value and merit.** A book needs at least two professional reviews that favorably address the quality of the work. Use of language, character, plot development, illustrations or photographs, reader engagement or readability, and technical qualities speak to literary or artistic value and merit.
- 5. Present information with the greatest degree of accuracy and clarity.** A book needs at least two professional reviews that favorably address the book's accuracy and clarity. The author's reputation, potential bias, credentials, and approach to the subject matter may be considered. Fiction must be regarded as "authentic literature" if the book is above or representative of a particular group. The author's belonging to that group may be considered.

# FWISD LIBRARY BOOK SELECTION CRITERIA

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**6. Maintain a balanced collection representing various views** Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people in the library's community. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. A balanced presentation of opposing issues in nonfiction must be presented either in the individual book or by including multiple books within a library.

Acceptable professional library review sources include Booklist, the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Horn Book, School Library Journal, and VOYA (ceased publication but may be used for older titles.) **Any professional curricular review sites may also be used.**

**Due to implicit bias, Kirkus (accepts payment for reviews) and Publishers Weekly (a trade magazine) are not preferred review sources.**

## When Professional Reviews are Unavailable

**Some, but not all, types of materials may be purchased when professional reviews are unavailable. If eligible for purchase, these items must still meet all selection criteria.**

Type of Literature	Appropriate for the Reading Levels and Understanding of Students	Literary or Artistic Value and Merit Present Information with Accuracy and Clarity
NONFICTION (neither formulaic nor literary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The publisher-designated age range may be used if no professional reviews can be located.</li> <li>• <b>Adult (AD)</b> designated content may only be purchased by high schools <b>if no sexually explicit content is included.</b></li> <li>• <b>Young Adult (YA)</b> may only be purchased at secondary campuses.</li> <li>• If the publisher-designated age range spans multiple levels, the librarian must use the publisher-designated age range and research the book to determine the primary target audience.</li> </ul> <p>*This does not include Graphic Novels.</p>	<p>Librarian research to determine whether the item meets standards of literary/artistic value, merit, accuracy, and clarity. The librarian must carefully ask these questions when making a purchasing decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there another title in the collection that could fulfill this objective?</li> <li>• Does the publisher have a good reputation for this type of work?</li> <li>• What is the author's reputation?</li> <li>• Does this meet a specific curricular need not met with another title?</li> <li>• Has a professional association endorsed this title?</li> <li>• Does this fill a need for a balanced or diverse collection?</li> <li>• Does this title provide a balanced viewpoint within the book or the library collection?</li> </ul>
Graphic Novels/MANGA Rating Scale: <b>E - Everybody</b> may be in all schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Librarians must <b>research and use the publisher-specific rating scale to determine the intended audience for the content.</b></li> <li>• <b>Items marked "mature" or "explicit" are prohibited (HB 900).</b></li> </ul>	<p>Secondary librarians may consider purchasing Manga by leveraging sites like the one on the American Library Association website to research individual book content and determine if it meets all board policy-aligned selection criteria.</p>

# FWISD LIBRARY BOOK SELECTION CRITERIA

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<p><b>Youth - 10+</b> may be in MS  <b>Teen 13+ MS</b>  <b>Older Teen 16+ - HS</b>  <b>Mature</b> - prohibited.                  This is equivalent to an NC 17 rating.  <b>Seinen (MEN) and Josei (WOMEN)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Books marked for “older teens,” 16+, “seinen,” or “josei”</b> may only be considered at schools serving 9-12 grade students if it has been read and approved by two different librarians at two different schools.</li> </ul>	
Literary Fiction and Literary Nonfiction	<p><b>Require two professional reviews to purchase.</b> This includes memoirs, biographies, and poetry.</p>	
Formulaic Fiction Series	<p>If a positive professional review exists for a book in a formulaic fiction series, it will suffice for the <b>entire series UNLESS the character ages as the series progresses.</b> Once the character ages out of the age of the school's students, the rest of the series should not be purchased at that school.</p>	
Formulaic Nonfiction Series	<p><b>If a positive professional review exists for one of the books in a formulaic nonfiction series, it will suffice for the entire series—</b>for example, Animal Allies by Capstone Publishing. One review serves for all five titles in the series.</p>	
Items in Other Languages	<p>If a professional review cannot be found for a specific translation, <b>a book may still be purchased if the English language version meets all selection criteria.</b></p>	
Items Originally Published Prior to 1970	<p>Professional reviews for classic books considered part of the “literary canon” and religious or historical texts may not be available. The <b>book may still be purchased if research indicates it meets all Fort Worth ISD selection criteria.</b> Librarians should consider whether or not items are in the public domain and the degree of student appeal in their decision.</p>	

## Where Can I Find Reviews?

Gale Academic OneFile Publication Search Gale Educator’s Reference Center	Vendor Sites such as Mackin, Titlewave, Perma-Bound, or BTSB. Get a copy of the actual review (Library Services lookup).
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# FWISD LIBRARY BOOK SELECTION CRITERIA

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## What If I Cannot Find Two Positive Reviews Online?

<p>Check if other district libraries have this same title at your level. If they have it, you can purchase it. Caveat: If it comes up on a restricted title list from the state, you must delete it.</p>	<p>Consider obtaining a copy from another school or the public library to read before purchasing.</p>	<p>Is the book on a state-recommended reading list? Lists from ALA or TLA have age suggestions that help guide librarians to the intended audience.</p>
<p>Even if a book is on a reading list, is it age appropriate? You don't have to purchase every book on the list.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Black Boy Joy is on the Bluebonnet list for Grades 3-6. The question isn't is this a good book. The question is whether the book is more appropriate for 3-6 graders or more suitable for MS students.</p> <p><b>Grades 4-7.</b> According to Gary the Griot, joy is cultivated through stories, and it is to be shared and distributed to the masses. That is exactly what he teaches his successor, young Fortitude, as they embark on a journey to collect Black boy joy. A collection of short stories aimed at middle-graders, this title offers a fierce lineup of 17 Black male and nonbinary authors exploring what exactly it means to exist as a Black boy (or person) without a hyperfocus on the inescapable pains of Black life in America. The contributors offer a warm embrace of the plurality of Blackness, with stories spanning from intergalactic world-saving to expressing one's true gender identity and from whipping up tantalizing dessert recipes to the process behind getting first-day-of-school fly, just to describe a few.</p>	<p>Nonfiction doesn't always have reviews on every title in a series. Check to see if the series has been reviewed positively. If so, then you may purchase this title.</p>	<p>Ultimately use your professional judgment when adding any material to the collection. Consider the materials from the lens of a parent or community member. Then decide if the material you want to add is critical to learning and/or reading for enjoyment.</p>