

SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Board of Education recognizes that a school library is an essential and integral part of the school system, and shall strive to provide adequate facilities, resources, and personnel for all elementary and secondary students in the public schools of the district. The legal responsibility for the school library rests with the Board.

The school libraries are to be restricted to the use of the children enrolled in the public schools of the district and school personnel.

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

- provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served;
- provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
- provide information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
- provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
- provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.

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 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:

- the primary purpose of the collection is to provide books and nonbook materials which will implement and enrich the curriculum in all areas;
- the library collection must meet the varied reading interests and abilities of all students;
- the materials provided must encourage and stimulate the development of interests, promote understanding, increase knowledge, and foster attitudes which will carry the student into adult life;
- materials should be provided which encourage critical judgment and evaluation; and materials selected should assist in development experiences which will lead the student into the joys and satisfactions known to those who understand and appreciate books.

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

Date Adopted: 12/7/04