

MEDIA CENTER - SELECTION OF LIBRARY BOOKS

The board of education, which is responsible for all book purchases, recognizes the student's right of free access to many different types of books. The board also recognizes the right of teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accord with current trends in education and to make them available in the schools. It is therefore the policy of this district to require the materials used in the school library media program, including print materials, nonprint materials, multimedia resources, equipment, and supplies, selected for our schools be in accord with the following:

1. Books and other reading matter shall be chosen for values and enlightenment of all students in the community. A book shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political or religious views of the writer or of its style and language.
2. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, local and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed from library shelves or classrooms because of partisan, doctrinal, approval or disapproval.
3. When acquiring books and other materials, the materials selected shall reflect the district's community standards for the population the library serves, and the materials shall be age-appropriate to the schools in which the materials are made available.
4. Books and other materials shall be selected in a manner ensuring that materials available to students are adequate in quantity and quality to meet the needs of students in all areas of the school library media program.
- *5. Censorship of books shall be challenged in order to maintain the school's responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

*In accordance with number 3 above, the board has adopted the following policy for dealing with censorship of books and other materials:

- The final decision for controversial reading matter shall rest with the board of education after careful examination and discussion of the book or reading matter with school educators.
- No parent or group of parents has the right to determine the reading matter for students other than their own children.
- The board does, however, recognize the right of an individual parent to request that his or her child does not have to read a given book, provided a written request is made to the superintendent.

6. Any parent who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any book in the school must make such a request in writing to the superintendent. The statement must be signed and identified so that a reply may be given.
7. A committee of two teachers and one librarian, appointed by the superintendent, shall review the material and judge whether it conforms to the above stated principles, and submit its report in writing to the superintendent.
8. If the matter cannot be resolved at this level, then the written criticism along with the superintendent's evaluation will be forwarded to the district's Curriculum Department for disposition. The concerned parties will be notified of the final disposition in writing.

Reference: OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 11-201 (subject to renumbering due to duplicate sections passed during legislative session), OAC 210:35-3-126, OAC 210:35-3-127