

# GISD LIBRARY SELECTION CRITERIA

Aligns with Board Policy EFB Local, books must meet all 5 criteria; applies to print, audio, and digital books

## 1 INTEGRAL TO INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Books in the library are selected to support content knowledge, process skills, or both. Books whose main subjects do not appear directly in the TEKS are selected to support the development of reading and thinking skills. Research shows a correlation between interest-based reading selections and academic performance. Students who read books of interest read more often and show greater levels of reading achievement. Library books are diverse in topics, themes, genres, formats, and characters so all students can find books of interest to develop their reading skills.

## 2 REFLECT THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS & FACULTY

Librarians use information such as circulation data, student and faculty suggestions, curricular topics, and current events to identify student and faculty needs. Not all books may be of interest to all students, but all students should find something of interest to them and see themselves and others reflected in the materials.

## 3 APPROPRIATE FOR READING LEVELS AND UNDERSTANDING OF STUDENTS

A book needs to have at least one professional review\* that indicates the target audience.

- **Elementary** - reviewed for grades PreK-5; use caution when considering books reviewed for grades 6-8; books coded **YA may not be added**
- **Middle School** - reviewed for grades 6-8 or below; use extensive review procedures\*\* when considering Young Adult (YA) and books reviewed for grades 9-12
- **High School** - reviewed for grades 9-12 or below; use extensive review procedures\*\* when reviews state explicit or mature material
- Books coded as Adult (AD) should be carefully considered prior to adding to secondary collections. **Books coded as Adult with mature/explicit themes may not be added**

## 4 INCLUDED BECAUSE OF LITERARY OR ARTISTIC VALUE AND MERIT

A book should have at least one professional review\* that favorably addresses the quality of the work. Use of language, character and plot development, illustrations and photographs, reader engagement and readability, and technical qualities all speak to literary or artistic value and merit. See page 2 for considerations when determining literary merit and/or consult [College Board's Titles of Literary Merit](#) list.

## 5 PRESENT INFORMATION WITH WITH THE GREATEST DEGREE OF ACCURACY AND CLARITY

A book should have at least one professional review\* that favorably addresses the book's accuracy and clarity. Author's credentials, potential bias, and approach to subject matter may be considered. Varied views of controversial issues create a balanced collection and may be presented either in an individual book or with the inclusion of multiple books within a library.

\*Acceptable professional library review sources include but aren't limited to: Booklist, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Horn Book, School Library Journal, & VOYA. Some but not all types of materials may be purchased when professional reviews are not available. See the next pages for information

\*\*Extensive review procedures includes completing extensive review rubric and consultation with District library staff before purchasing

## WHEN NO PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS ARE AVAILABLE

Some but not all types of materials may be purchased when professional reviews are not available. If eligible for purchase, these items must still meet all 5 selection criteria. Librarians may use the table below and/or read the item in its entirety, applying the 5 selection criteria to determine whether they can order an item and, if so, should err on the side of caution when making decisions.

TYPE OF LITERATURE	APPROPRIATE FOR THE READING LEVELS & UNDERSTANDING OF STUDENTS	LITERARY OR ARTISTIC VALUE AND MERIT & PRESENT INFORMATION WITH ACCURACY AND CLARITY (USE FOR BOTH FICTION AND NONFICTION TITLES)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NONFICTION</b></p> <p>(neither formulaic nor literary)</p>	<p>If no professional reviews can be located, the publisher designated age range may be used. Adult (AD) designated content may only be purchased at campuses serving 11th &amp; 12th grade students. Young Adult (YA) may only be purchased at secondary campuses. If the publisher designated age range spans multiple levels, the librarian must use both the publisher designated age range and research on the book to determine the primary target audience.</p>	<p>Librarian must research to determine whether the item meets standards of literary/artistic value and merit as well as accuracy and clarity. The librarian must carefully weigh the following when making a purchasing decision. Some things to consider when determining if a material has literary merit can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book has/expresses social, political, or ideological impacts on/about society.</li> <li>• Has stood the test of time in some way, regardless of the date of publication</li> <li>• Shows thematic depth: The themes merit revisiting and study because they are complex and nuanced.</li> <li>• The novel, or elements of it, evokes a strong emotional response that speak to the human condition rather than being a story of mere sentimentality, cliché, or “pulp” fiction.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Refer to Pg 7 College Board's Engaging Students with Literature</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MANGA</b></p>	<p>Librarians must research and use the publisher-specific rating scale to determine the intended audience for the content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items marked “mature” or with the words “explicit content” should not be purchased.</li> <li>• Books marked for “older teens”, “16+”, “seinen”, or “josei” may only be considered at schools serving 11th-12th grade students.</li> </ul>	<p>Librarians may consider purchasing age-appropriate Manga by leveraging sites such as the ones listed below in order to research individual book content and determine whether it meets all board policy aligned selection criteria.</p> <p>Review &amp; Information resources:</p> <p><a href="#">No Flying No Tights</a> <a href="#">SLJ Manga Primer (Info only)</a>  <a href="#">School Library Journal Good Comics for Kids</a>  <a href="#">Manga Librarian blog</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FORMULAIC FICTION SERIES</b></p>	<p>If a positive professional review exists for a book in a formulaic fiction series, it will suffice for the rest of the series.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FORMULAIC NONFICTION SERIES</b></p>	<p>If a positive professional review exists for one of the books in a formulaic nonfiction series, it will suffice for the rest of the series.</p>	

**ITEMS IN OTHER  
LANGUAGES**

If a professional review cannot be found for a specific translation, a book may still be purchased if the English language version meets all selection criteria.

**ITEMS ORIGINALLY  
PUBLISHED BEFORE 1970**

Professional reviews for classic books considered part of the “literary canon” and religious or historical texts may not be available. In these instances, the book may still be purchased if research indicates it meets all MISD selection criteria. Librarians should consider whether or not items are in the public domain and degree of student appeal in their decisions.

# DEFINITIONS

- **ADULT(AD)** - The adult, or AD, audience designation used by publishers is not a reflection of content but of the audience for whom the content is written. Books that were not specifically written for children or young adults fall into this category.
- **FORMULAIC FICTION SERIES**- Found at the elementary level. Each book in a formulaic fiction series contains the same characters, the same plot structure, and does not develop in depth and complexity or tackle more mature content as the series progresses. (Ex. Magic Tree House is a formulaic series, while Harry Potter is literary.) Typically only a few books in a formulaic series are reviewed.
- **FORMULAIC NONFICTION SERIES**- Each book in a formulaic nonfiction series contains the same organizational structure, elements, reading level, and subject approach. Typically only a few books in a formulaic series are reviewed.
- **HIGH-LOW(HiLo)** - HiLo books are typically written to be of high interest to secondary students while being written at an early elementary level. Elementary librarians should exercise caution when considering a HiLo novel.
- **LITERARY NONFICTION** - Literary nonfiction authors use techniques typically reserved for fiction to present informational content in creative and engaging ways.
- **MANGA** - Manga refers to a style of Japanese comics/graphic novels. This type of literature is not reviewed in professional library review journals.
- **PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY REVIEW JOURNALS** - These journals are recognized as reputable selection tools within the field of librarianship. Acceptable professional library review journals include Booklist, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Horn Book, Kirkus, and School Library Journal. Although out-of-print, VOYA may be used for older items.
- **PUBLIC DOMAIN**- Creative works that are not protected by intellectual property laws. In the case of library books, these are books with expired copyright dates. Books in the public domain are generally accessible online.
- **YOUNG ADULT (YA)** - Books written for grades 6-12 are designated as Young Adult (YA). Common themes in YA realistic fiction include friendship, getting into trouble, self-identity, coming of age, romantic and sexual interest, and family life. The text of a YA review is used to determine whether the title is suitable for middle school, high school, senior high school, or a combination.