

## Community Guide for Educational Materials

### Introduction - Processes for Approving Instructional Materials For Classrooms

Hillsboro School District has an established process, defined in [Board Policy](#) and our [Administrative Rules](#), for selecting materials to be used with students in our classrooms. Professional staff members work collaboratively to select instructional resources and materials with great care and judgement, focusing on the treatment of people and their viewpoints in a respectful manner. Materials are also selected to support our curriculum, be at the appropriate readability level for its intended audience, and are accessible by all students. It is understood that differences of opinion may arise regarding instructional and supplemental materials. The procedure to be followed in these situations is outlined in [policy KLB: Complaints about Curriculum or Instructional Materials](#), and [KLB-AR: Instructional Materials](#). **It is important to note that, according to HSD policy and rules, no single individual is authorized to remove an instructional material that was selected and approved in adherence with our policies.**

### For Supplemental Reading and Media Centers

Teachers in HSD may also elect to teach students using supplementary materials, most often novels, that are outside the scope of our instructional materials adoptions. These materials must also be selected using the procedures set forth in HSD [Administrative Rules](#). Campus media centers provide students, staff, and families access to an even wider array of materials, and our district Library Media Services staff must also adhere to [Board Policy for media center materials selection](#). It is understood that differences of opinion may arise regarding instructional and supplemental materials. The procedure to be followed in these situations is outlined in [policy KLB: Complaints about Curriculum or Instructional Materials](#), and [KLB-AR: Instructional Materials](#). It is important to note that, according to HSD policy and rules, no single individual is authorized to remove supplemental or media center material that was selected and approved in adherence with our policies.

### National and Regional Reading Lists and Extra Curricular Activities

Hillsboro School District is aware that national and regional organizations create suggested reading lists, book clubs, and literary competitions. These organizations are not associated with HSD, and we neither encourage or discourage the reading of books from these lists. The participation of student engagement with these reading lists and competitions should be a student and family based decision.

### Resources for Parents and the Community

[Common Sense Media Essential Books Guide](#) - Provides information on how to raise a reader, practical tips for parents of exceptional readers, hand-picked recommendations, how to choose great books for your kids

[National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children - Talking about difficult topics](#) - Books can create opportunities to discuss difficult topics with our children before those topics come up in their "real" lives. Discussing how characters handled an issue, either poorly or well, for example, can open the doors to discussions on how our own children may choose to act in similar situations.

[American Psychological Association - How to talk to children about difficult news](#) - Advises to instead of constantly shielding children from trauma, adults should talk to kids about what is happening in the world. Books and stories can create safe avenues for these sometimes difficult conversations.

[PBS Parents - Strategies for Talking and Listening](#) - While this resource is focused on talking about events in the news, these strategies can be used for anything our children may ask questions about.

[National Center on Improving Literacy - Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development at Home](#) - This resource offers tips and advice for taking part in literary experiences and activities for young children, older children, and adolescents

### **Resources for HSD Staff**

[The American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom](#) provides guidance for schools and librarians regarding minors' rights, including position statements, policies, publications, and other resources.

[Library Bill of Rights interpretation for minors](#) - "...only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's—and only their children's—access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children." HSD Library Media Staff will support parents' decisions regarding materials for *their* children.

[From Access to Resources and Services in the School Library](#) - "Members of the school community involved in the collection development process employ educational criteria to select resources unfettered by their personal, political, social, or religious views. Students and educators served by the school library have access to resources and services free of constraints resulting from personal, partisan, or doctrinal disapproval. School librarians resist efforts by individuals or groups to define what is appropriate for all students or teachers to read, view, hear, or access regardless of technology, formats or method of delivery."

The National Council of Teachers of English has a resource, both [for challenges to classroom novels and library books](#) that detail specific novels that have been challenged, as well as the effects of censorship, the right to read, the threat to education, the community's responsibility, and a program of action, which includes many of the policies and procedures HSD already has in place, referenced above.