Miller Place Union Free School District
Miller Place, New York 11764

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Board of Education Policy

LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION

The Board of Education, as the governing body of the school District, is legally responsible for the selection of library materials, including the selection and approval of printed and non-printed materials for its use. Since the Board is primarily a policy-making body, it delegates to the following professional personnel of the District the authority for the selection of materials: teachers, principals, librarians, etc., under the leadership of the Superintendent of Schools.

In order to provide the Superintendent and his/her staff with guidance in the acquisition of instructional material, such as library books, references, audiovisuals, maps, etc., the Board endorses guidelines approved by the American Library Association that such resources:

1. Provide information that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests and maturity levels of the students and faculty served;
2. Provide information that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
3. Provide information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
4. Provide information on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
5. Provide information representative of many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage; and
6. Place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the selection of resource materials within the aforesaid guidelines and for the determination of factual accuracy, readability, authoritativeness, integrity, and quality of format. To assist in the selection process, reputable, unbiased professionally prepared resources (such as The Horn Book, School Library Journal, Booklist, etc.) shall be consulted as guides.

Every school library contains books and library materials that span the reading and grade levels of the students in the building and as such, students may have access to books and library materials beyond their reading or grade level. In this regard, all parents and guardians are presumed to consent to their child reading library books and library materials of any reading or grade level. In the event that a parent wishes to limit their child to reading library books and library materials that are at or below a student's reading or grade level, they must contact the Miller Place School District in writing to the attention of the Assistant Superintendent, Miller Place UFSD, Administration Building, 7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, New York, 11764.

In order to respond to any complaints about, or challenges to, the selection of library materials, the District has adopted regulations establishing a complaint procedure. This procedure provides for the review of such complaints or challenges by the principal of the building where the material is being challenged and an Instructional Review Committee. A decision will then be made by the

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Superintendent based on the recommendations of the principal and the Committee. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board which has the ultimate decision-making authority. (See 1420-R, Public Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Material Regulation.)

If any person wishes to permanently remove materials from a school District library, he/she must seek the formal approval of the Board. The Instructional Review Committee will make a recommendation as to whether such materials should be removed. Such recommendation must not be based upon official suppression of ideas, but rather upon the educational suitability of the materials in question. Only the Board and/or the Superintendent may authorize permanent removal of instructional materials, pursuant to the decision of the Board.

Cross Ref: Regulation 1420-R

Ref: Education Law §§1709 (15), 1711(2) (f)
Board of Educ., Island Trees UFSD v. Pico, 457 US 853 (1982)

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