

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
LIBRARY MATERIALS

EFB
(LOCAL)

Note: For information related to the selection of instructional materials, see EFA.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the District provides a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. This policy also provides standards for collection development and the selection and evaluation of library materials.

Collection
Development Policy

In this policy, "library materials" is defined by law and may include printed and electronic library acquisitions, including online catalogs, and other ancillary or supplementary materials maintained in a campus library. [See EFB(LEGAL)]

The library collection development standards shall apply to all library materials available for use or display, including material contained in school libraries, classroom libraries, ~~and~~ online catalogs, library mobile applications used in the District, and any other library catalog a student may access.

In developing library collections, the District shall consider the age groups, grade levels, and access to library material by all students on a campus.

Responsibility

The District shall ensure librarians, professional library staff, and other designated professional staff are trained or receive information on the proper collection development standards ~~select and acquire library materials in accordance with state law and rules, this collection development policy, and administrative procedures.~~

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that library collections comply with applicable law, library standards, and the District's collection development purpose and goals.

Collection
Development Goals

In addition to the requirements in state law and rules, the District's library collections shall:

1. Present multiple viewpoints related to controversial issues [see EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues].
2. Provide a wide range of background information that will enable students to make intelligent decisions in their daily lives.
3. Include accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources.
4. Have a high degree of potential user appeal and interest.

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5. Offer a global perspective that promotes equity of access, including print and nonprint materials such as electronic and multimedia, to meet the needs of individual learners.
6. Represent diverse viewpoints and ~~cultures~~ cultural groups ~~appropriate to each campus~~ of the state and their contributions to the state, the nation, and the world, to ensure the collection embodies the ~~unique~~ background of ~~its student population~~ all students.

Selection and
Evaluation of
Materials

Library materials shall be ~~selected and acquired~~ recommended and procured in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the District standards and priorities expressed in this policy.

~~When selecting, acquiring, and evaluating library materials,~~ Librarians and other professional staff shall develop recommendations to be presented to the Board. The librarians and other professional staff shall ensure that the materials:

1. Enrich and support the TEKS and the state and local curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, maturity levels, abilities, and learning styles.
2. Foster growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.
3. Encourage the enjoyment of reading, foster high-level thinking skills, support personal learning, and encourage discussion based on rational analysis.
4. Represent ethnic, religious, and cultural groups of the state and their contributions to the state, the nation, and the world.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrative procedures regarding the ~~selection~~ development of recommendations of library materials consider at least two of the following factors:

1. Recommendations from students, parents or guardians, teachers, and District ~~community members~~ residents.
2. Consultation with District teachers and library staff.
3. Consultation with library staff from other districts.
4. Extensive review of the library material.
5. Context of the library material, including overall fit within the existing collection and support of District curriculum.
6. Reviews of the library material from sources such as professional journals in library science, recognized professional education or content journals with book reviews, national and

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state award recognition lists, library science field experts, and highly acclaimed author and literacy expert recommendations.

7. Coverage of topics, authors, series, or genres that fill gaps in the school library collection.

The Board shall consider the list of library materials that have been donated or proposed by the administration for procurement. Each Board member may propose changes before the Board takes action on the list of donated or proposed library materials.

The Board shall either approve or reject the library materials that have been donated or proposed for procurement.

Donated and
Proposed
Procurement List

At least 30 days prior to the Board's vote to accept donated library materials or approve procurement of library materials, the Superintendent shall make accessible to the public the list of library materials in accordance with law.

Access Plan

The District shall allow efficient parental access to the District's library and any available online catalogs.

Online catalogs shall be publicly available. The District shall publish information about library material titles, including how and where material can be accessed.

Each campus shall communicate the following to parents and guardians:

- Access to policies relating to school libraries and library materials;
- Consistent access to library materials and resources; and
- Opportunities for students, parents and guardians, educators, and community members to provide feedback on library materials and services.

Parental
Involvement

Parents and guardians are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material. In general, a student is afforded the opportunity to self-select library materials as part of literacy development and the library program. District staff may assist a student in selecting library material; however, the ultimate determination of appropriateness remains with the student and parent or guardian. Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with the campus librarian and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student.

In accordance with state law and administrative procedures, parents or guardians may submit to the principal or a staff member

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designated by the principal a list of library materials that the parent's or guardian's child shall not be allowed to check out or access for use outside of the school library. The Superintendent shall develop procedures that permit a parent or guardian to submit the request in at least one of the methods permitted by law.

The parent or guardian may select alternative library materials for their ~~student~~ child. [For information on parental rights regarding instructional materials and other instructional resources, see EFA(LEGAL).]

The District shall focus on maximizing transparency with parents while meeting student needs and providing enrichment opportunities with library materials. Parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities is encouraged.

Access
Procedures

School Library

A parent or guardian who wishes to access a school's library shall first submit a request to the principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall work with the parent or guardian to determine a time to access the library that will not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt student use of library services.

~~Online~~ Library
Catalog

A parent or guardian who wishes to access ~~an online~~ the catalog of library materials for any school in the District shall submit a written request to the school's principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall respond to the request in accordance with administrative procedures.

Protection from
Inappropriate
Material

In accordance with law and guidance from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, ~~Library materials shall not include "harmful material" as defined by Penal Code 43.24(a)(2); "obscene" material as defined by Penal Code 43.21(a)(1); any library material that is pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable as referenced in Board of Education v. Pico; any library material containing indecent or profane content; any library material that refers a person to a website, including by use of a link or QR code, containing content legally prohibited under law; or any other material legally prohibited from inclusion in a public school library. [See EFB(LEGAL)]~~

Obscene material is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Library materials shall comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), including technology protection measures. [See CQ]

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Reconsideration
Challenge of Library
Material

Guiding Principles

A District employee, ~~or~~ a parent or guardian of a District student, or a District resident may ~~request the reconsideration of a~~ challenge library material maintained in the District's library program.

The following principles shall guide the review of a ~~request to reconsider a~~ challenge of library material:

1. An individual may ~~raise an objection to a~~ challenge library material used in the District's library program, despite the fact that the professional staff and the Board ~~selecting the materials were qualified to make the selection,~~ followed the proper procedure, and adhered to the objectives and criteria for recommending and procuring library materials set out in this policy.
2. Access to challenged material shall be restricted during the challenge process. ~~A parent's or guardian's ability to exercise control over instruction and instructional resources, including library materials, extends only to their own child as set forth in Education Code Chapter 26.~~
3. ~~Access to a challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process, except the District may deny access to a student if requested by the student's parent or guardian.~~

In addition to compliance with state law and this policy, a criterion for the final decision on challenged library materials is the appropriateness of the material for its intended use. No challenged library material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed in the library material or the personal background of the library material's author or the personal background of the characters in the material.

Informal
Reconsideration
Challenge

When the District or a campus receives an objection to the appropriateness of a library material, the appropriate librarian or administrator shall try to resolve the matter informally. The librarian or administrator shall explain the selection process and discuss the intended purpose for the library material.

The librarian or administrator shall offer a concerned parent or guardian an alternative library material to be used by the child in place of the material and, if requested, shall restrict the child's access to the material objected to by the parent or guardian.

If the individual wishes to make a formal challenge, the administrator shall make available to the individual a copy of this policy and ~~a~~ the form to request a formal ~~reconsideration~~ challenge of the library material.

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Formal ~~Request for~~
~~Reconsideration~~
Challenge

The District shall make ~~a~~ the Texas Education Agency form to ~~re-~~
~~quest reconsideration of~~ challenge library material available ~~in~~ on
the District's ~~administrative office~~ website.

~~If an~~ a District employee, ~~or~~ a parent or guardian of a District stu-
dent, or a District resident wishes to ~~request reconsideration of~~
challenge a library material, they shall follow the procedures to
complete and submit the ~~request for reconsideration~~ challenge
form.

After a ~~request for reconsideration~~ challenge form is submitted, the
form shall be provided to the Superintendent. Copies of the form
shall be provided to the school librarian, the Board, and any other
staff designated in administrative procedures.

~~Reconsideration~~
~~Challenge~~
~~Committee~~

~~For purposes of this policy, "days" shall mean District business~~
~~days, unless otherwise noted.~~

The ~~Office of Academics~~ Superintendent shall appoint a ~~reconsid-~~
~~eration~~ challenge committee and notify committee members ~~within~~
~~10 days of receiving the request for reconsideration form~~ in accord-
ance with administrative procedures.

The ~~reconsideration~~ challenge committee shall include the librarian
and at least one member of the instructional staff who is familiar
with the material's content. Other members of the committee may
include District-level staff, secondary-level students, parents or
guardians, and any other appropriate individuals.

~~Within 10 days of appointment of the committee the~~ The District
shall provide members of the committee the relevant materials to
review in accordance with the deadlines established in administra-
tive procedures and in accordance with law. ~~If additional time is re-~~
~~quired to obtain and distribute the materials for review, all members~~
~~of the committee shall be informed that a reasonable extension of~~
~~time is needed.~~

Any meeting of the committee must comply with the meeting re-
quirements under Education Code 33.025(g) and (h), including re-
quired notices, meeting minutes, audio or video recordings, and
submission of minutes and audio or video recordings of the meet-
ing to the District.

All members of the committee shall review the challenged library
material in its entirety and determine whether the material con-
forms to this policy and whether the material will continue to be
available in the library. The committee shall prepare a written report
of its findings.

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~~Absent extenuating circumstances, the written report shall be provided to the administration within 60 days of the District providing the material to the committee members. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day the committee is provided the materials is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."~~

~~Extensions of time due to extenuating circumstances shall take into consideration the time necessary to convene the committee members, the amount of material being reviewed, and any other pending reconsideration requests being handled by the committee.~~

~~An extension of any deadline shall be promptly communicated to the individual who submitted the request for reconsideration.~~

The Superintendent, the school librarian, the individual submitting the request for reconsideration challenge, and any other appropriate administrators staff shall receive a copy of the committee's report.

Appeal

An individual who submitted a request for reconsideration challenge may appeal the decision of the reconsideration committee in accordance with appropriate complaint policies, starting at the level immediately preceding Board consideration of a complaint. [See DGBA and FNG] to the Board. The individual must provide the notice of appeal in accordance with administrative procedures.

The Board shall hear the appeal and render a decision in accordance with the timelines established in law.

When considering the appeal, the Board shall consider the factors in Education Code 33.027(f). The Board shall consider appeals in accordance with timelines set out in law.

Frequency of Review

After a library material has been reviewed through the reconsideration process challenged and the Board determines not to remove the library material from a school library catalog, it shall may not be reviewed challenged again within two calendar years of the reconsideration committee's final decision before the second anniversary of the Board's final decision not to remove the material.

Removal of Library Materials

If a challenge to a library material results in the removal of the library material from the school library catalog, each teacher assigned as the classroom teacher at the grade level for which the library material was removed shall be notified and instructed to remove any copy of the library material from the teacher's classroom library, if applicable.

Maintenance of Library Materials

In accordance with state guidelines and District administrative procedures, collections shall be evaluated and updated regularly based on the collections' age, relevance, diversity, and variety. The

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Superintendent shall ensure administrative procedures are established for regular maintenance of the library collection on each campus. Standard maintenance procedures for any library collection include repair, replacement, and removal of materials as necessary. Regular maintenance shall also include scheduled inventories of the collection. Disposal of any District-owned library materials shall be in accordance with District policy and procedures. [See CI]

Gifts and Donations

The District shall accept gifts and donations of library materials with the understanding that the use and disposition of the materials and monies will be in accordance with District policy and the selection criteria noted above. [See CDC]

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed at least every three years and revised as necessary.