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.

School Library Advisory Council

The Board has established a school library advisory council (SLAC). At the first meeting of the SLAC, the members shall select a chair.

The SLAC shall meet at least two times each year but may hold additional meetings in order to consider recommendations from District staff and fulfill its statutory duties.

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, 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 the members of the SLAC, librarians, professional library staff, and other designated professional staff are trained or receive information on the proper collection development standards.

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.
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 cultural groups of the state and their contributions to the state, the nation, and the world, to ensure the collection embodies the background of all students.

Recommendation and Procurement of Materials

Library materials shall be 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.

Librarians and other professional staff shall assist the SLAC in developing the list of library material 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 development of recommendations of library materials consider at least two of the following factors:

1. Recommendations from students, parents or guardians, teachers, and District 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 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 SLAC shall recommend to the Board a list of library materials for procurement.

The Board shall consider the SLAC's recommended list of library materials that have been donated or proposed by the SLAC 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 child'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 child.

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

Library Catalog

A parent or guardian who wishes to access 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"; any library material that is pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable; 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]

Challenge of Library Material

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

The SLAC shall recommend to the Board for adoption the procedures for challenging library materials.

Guiding Principles

The following principles shall guide the review of a challenge of library material:

1. An individual may challenge library material used in the District's library program, despite the fact that the professional staff, SLAC, and the Board 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.

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.

Formal Challenge

The District shall make the Texas Education Agency form to challenge library material available on the District's website.

If a District employee, a parent or guardian of a District student, or a District resident wishes to challenge library material, they shall follow the procedures to complete and submit the challenge form.

In addition to copies of the completed form being provided to the members of the SLAC in accordance with law, copies shall also be provided to the Board, the Superintendent, the school librarian, and any other staff designated in administrative procedures.

SLAC Recommendation

The SLAC shall consider the challenge in accordance with Board-adopted procedures and in accordance with law and shall make a recommendation to the Board.

Any meeting of the SLAC or a review committee, if any, must comply with the meeting requirements under Education Code 33.025(g) and (h), including required notices, meeting minutes, audio or

video recordings, and submission of minutes and audio or video recordings of the meeting to the District.

The Superintendent, the school librarian, the individual submitting the challenge, and any other appropriate staff shall receive a copy of the SLAC's recommendation.

Appeal

An individual who submitted a challenge may appeal the decision of the SLAC to the Board in accordance with the challenge procedures.

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 challenged and the Board determines not to remove the library material from a school library catalog, it may not be challenged again 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 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 Board 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.