Policy Title	Policy Number	Date Approved/Revised
Library Materials	**606.5**	**8/20/24** **Revised: 4/29/25** **Revised: 9/23/25**

1) General Statement of Policy

The school board recognizes that library materials serve as a vital component of a student's education by enriching the breadth of the curriculum as a whole and meeting the needs and interests of individual students. The purpose of library materials is to meet the needs of all students. Therefore, questions regarding selection and reconsideration of library materials should be handled differently than those concerning textbooks and instructional materials.

To ensure that library materials fulfill this role, the school board delegates to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee responsibility for administering a process for selection of library materials. Responsibility for selection shall rest with professionally trained school district staff, with recognition that the school board has the final authority on selection of library materials. Parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's access to library materials.

2) Definitions

A. "Library" is the school district resource that holds the library collection that serves the information and independent reading needs of students and supports the curriculum needs of teachers and staff. The term "library" includes a school library media center. The term also includes access to electronic materials.

For school districts with multiple school buildings, the term "library" refers to the resource within a specific school building.

Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.911, states that a school district or charter school library or school library media center provides equitable and free access to students, teachers, and administrators and that a school library or school library media center must have the following characteristics:

1. ensures every student has equitable access to resources and is able to locate, access, and use resources that are organized and cataloged;
2. has a collection development plan that includes but is not limited to materials selection and deselection, a challenged materials procedure, and an intellectual and academic freedom statement;
3. is housed in a central location that provides an environment for expanded learning and supports a variety of student interests;
4. has technology and Internet access; and
5. is served by a licensed school library media specialist or licensed school librarian.

B. "Library collection" consists of the library materials made available to students.

C. "Library materials" are the books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, prints, documents, videotapes, subscription content, electronic and digital materials (including e-books, audiobooks, and databases), and related items made available to students in a school building or through access to electronic materials This term does not include materials made available to students as part of the curriculum.

D. "Library media specialist" is a teacher holding a Library Media Specialist teaching license issued by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Boards and who is trained to deliver library services to students and staff in a library. A library media specialist is authorized under Minnesota Rules to provide to students in kindergarten through grade 12 instruction that is designed to provide information and technology literacy skills instruction, to lead, collaborate, and consult with other classroom teachers for the purpose of integrating information and technology literacy skills with content teaching, and to administer media center operations, programming, and resources.

3) Responsibility for Selection of Library Materials

A. The school board recognizes the expertise of the school district's professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be responsible for selection of library materials.

B. While recommendations by administrators, faculty members, students, parents, and other community members may be considered, the responsibility for selection of library materials shall rest with the library media specialist in collaboration with the District Office of Teaching & Learning

C. The procedures for selection and reconsideration set forth in this policy will be administered by:

1. a licensed library media specialist under Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4550;

2. an individual with a master's degree in library science or library and information science; or

3. a professional librarian or a person trained in library collection management.

D. The school board may decline to purchase, lend, or shelve or remove access to library materials legitimately based on:

1. practical reasons, including but not limited to shelf space limitations, rare or antiquarian status, damage, or obsolescence;

2. legitimate pedagogical concerns, including but not limited to the appropriateness of potentially sensitive topics for the library's intended audience, the selection of library materials for a curated collection, or the likelihood of causing a material and substantial disruption of the work and discipline of the school; or

3. compliance with state or federal law.

4) Selection of Library Materials

A. Selection Criteria: The library materials selection process should result in a library collection that, when considered as a whole, is consistent with the following criteria:

1. Library materials shall support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the state and the district and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses;

2. Library materials shall be chosen to enrich and support the curriculum as well as to promote reading for pleasure by responding to the personal needs and interests of student users;

3. Library materials shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, religion, sex, gender, or political views of the writer;

4. Library materials shall be appropriate to and reflect the needs, ages, maturity level, emotional development, ability levels, learning styles, social development, background, diversity, and needs and interests of the students for whom the materials were selected;

5. Library materials shall meet high standards of quality in one or more of these categories (presented alphabetically):

    a. Artistic quality and/or literary style;

    b. Authenticity;

    c. Critical thinking;

    d. Educational significance;

    e. Factual content;

    f. High interest for intended audience; and

    g. Readability.

6. The selection of library materials shall conform to the constraints of the school district budget.

B. The library media specialist shall consult sources and specialists experienced in library materials collections appropriate for the building's students and that are reputable, experienced, unbiased, and professionally trained in school library materials.

C. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of progress on review and selection of each building's library materials.

D. Library materials that are outdated, inaccurate, no longer useful for curricular support or reading enrichment, or have not been utilized for an extended period of time may be removed. Library materials that are in poor physical condition may be removed or

replaced as determined by the library media specialist or the principal.

E. Gifts and Donations of Library Materials

Materials offered for donation or gifted to a school library may be accepted if they comply with the library collection selection criteria and approved by the library media specialist. The school district's libraries welcome donations of books and other resource materials from individuals and organizations, but also reserve the right to decline to accept library materials that do not meet the criteria for selection. In addition, financial donations to benefit school district's libraries will be accepted with the understanding that funds will be used to purchase materials that are needed for libraries based on the needs of the individual schools.

5) Individual Student Access To Specific Library Material I

A parent or guardian may request that access to specific material in the library materials collection be restricted from their student. A parent or guardian can initiate a request by following the ISD 622 Reconsideration of Instructional and Library Materials Process.The school shall take reasonable steps to fulfill this request. This type of request will not result in removal of specific library collection material from the library or restrictions upon any other student accessing specific library materials.

6) Reconsideration Of Specific Library Material

A. The school board seeks to uphold students' access to library materials that meet the educational goals and selection criteria set forth in this policy.

B. A school district employee, student, or a parent or guardian of a school district student may request reconsideration of specific library material on the basis of appropriateness. Access to the material in question shall not be restricted until the procedures listed below have been fully completed and a decision to remove or restrict the materials has been made.

C. Informal Request for Reconsideration of Specific Library Material

1. Requests for reconsideration of specific library material shall be directed to the building principal. The building principal will work with the library media specialist and shall assume responsibility for processing the request on an informal basis.

2. The building principal and/or the library media specialist shall provide an explanation to the individual who submitted the request. The explanation shall include the particular selection criteria that the material in question met in order to be included in the library as curriculum support or as an independent reading choice for students in the building.

3. If the request is not resolved informally, the principal shall submit a report on the matter to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. The requestor will have an option to initiate a Formal Request for Reconsideration.

D. Formal Request for Reconsideration of Specific Library Collection Material

1. A Formal Request for Reconsideration of specific library material is initiated upon

submission of a completed *Formal Request for Reconsideration of Specific Library Collection Material* form. The form must be completed in its entirety for each work that is subject to a request for reconsideration. The principal shall notify the superintendent or the superintendent's designee and the library media specialist of receipt of a completed Formal Request form.

If specific library material is the subject of a Formal Request for Reconsideration and a final decision is made to retain the specific library material, then the specific library material shall not be subject to additional requests for reconsideration for one year following the date of final resolution of the initial Formal Request for Reconsideration.

2. On an annual basis, the Superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall appoint a Library Materials Review Committee (Review Committee). This committee shall include:

   This Committee shall include at least one of each of the following representatives:
   building administrator, classroom teacher, a licensed media specialist or designee, and a member of the ISD 622 Advisory. The staff member(s) and complainant(s) directly involved in the complaint shall not be members of this Committee.

3. The Instructional Materials Review Committee will review the material within 30 working days. The Committee will take the following steps after receiving the request:
   - Read challenged portions of materials as well as text that might provide useful context;
   - Determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews of the material;
   - Weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context;
   - Discuss the challenged material in the context of the educational program;
   - Discuss the challenged material with the individual questioner when appropriate;
   - Discuss the following possible courses of action for the resource in question:Retain the resource for unrestricted use by students; Move the resource to a different grade level or course; Remove the resource entirely
   - Prepare a written response with the committee's recommendation. The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

   If the Committee selects the option to retain the resource for unrestricted use by students, the school district will make reasonable arrangements to provide alternative resources or instruction upon request of the complainant. The school district is not required to pay for alternative instruction provided by the complainant. The school district may not impose academic or other penalties on a student merely for arranging alternative instruction. The school district,

however, may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work.

The Materials Review Committee will present a written recommendation to the Superintendent and the school board. The complainant and faculty member(s) will be notified of the Committee's decision.

7) Challenge Report

Upon the completion of a content challenge or reconsideration process in accordance with this policy, the school board must submit a report of the challenge to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education that includes:

A. the title, author, and other relevant identifying information about the material being challenged;

B. the date, time, and location of any public hearing held on the challenge in question, including minutes or transcripts;

C. the result of the challenge or reconsideration request; and

D. accurate and timely information on who from the school district the Department of Education may contact with questions or follow-up.

8) Prohibition of Retaliation

The school district may not discriminate against or discipline an employee for complying with Minnesota Statutes, section 134.51.

Rationale: *The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and to delegate responsibility for selection and reconsideration of library materials.*

Adoption and Revision History	**Incorporated Policies**
606.5 LIBRARY MATERIALS (This policy adopted August 20, 2024)	MSBA 606.5
606.5 LIBRARY MATERIALS This Policy Revised: April 29, 2025; September 23, 2025	

Administrative Rule, Regulation and Procedure: NA

Legal References*:* Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (School Board Responsibilities)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.991 (Public School Libraries and Media Centers)
Minn. Stat. § 134.51 (Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected)
Minn. Rules Part 8710.4550 (Library Media Specialists)
Bd. of Educ., Island Trees Union Free Sch. Dist. No. 26 v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)
Virginia State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 624, 642 (1943)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)