

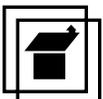
2530 RESOURCE MATERIALS

The Board of Education shall provide resource materials to implement the school district's educational goals and objectives to meet student needs as district resources permit. Resource materials include, but are not limited to, reference materials; fiction and nonfiction books; maps; audio and audio-visual materials; pamphlets; periodicals; pictures; online references; other supplementary titles; and other sources of information for use by students that are not designated as textbooks. Resource materials are not library material as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-3 and Policy and Regulation 2535.

The Superintendent will develop regulations for the selection of resource materials pursuant to Regulation 2530 that provide for the effective consultation of teaching staff members at all appropriate levels, ensure that the Board's budgetary allotment for resource materials is efficiently spent and appropriately distributed throughout the instructional program and the district, and ensure an inventory of resource materials that is well balanced.

The Superintendent will evaluate resource materials and recommend to the Board the removal of resource materials that no longer meet the standards set forth in Regulation 2530 and this Policy. Any request by an individual for the removal of resource materials will be governed by Policy and Regulation 9130

Adopted:



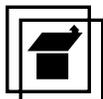
2535 LIBRARY MATERIAL

The Board of Education believes the freedom to read is a human right, constitutionally protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and individuals have the right to free inquiry and the right to form their own opinions. The freedom to read does not require an individual to agree with topics or themes within a material, but instead allows a reader to explore and engage with differing perspectives to form and inform their own views pursuant to the “Freedom to Read Act” N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-1 through N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-7.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4, the purpose of Regulation 2535 and this Policy is to: provide standards for the curation of library material, establish criteria for the removal of existing school library material or library material selected for inclusion in the school library, and provide protection against attempts to censor library material.

A. Definitions – N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-3

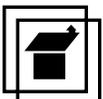
1. For the purpose of Regulation 2535 and this Policy:
 - a. “Board of Education” means a Board of Education as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2, the Board of Directors of an educational services commission, a Board of Trustees of a charter school, a Board of Trustees of a renaissance school project, or any other local education agency.
 - b. “Censorship” means to block, suppress, or remove library material based on disagreement with a viewpoint, idea, or concept or solely because an individual finds certain content offensive, but does not include limiting or restricting access to any library material deemed developmentally inappropriate for certain students.
 - c. “Diverse and inclusive material” means any material that reflects any protected class as enumerated in the “Law Against Discrimination,” N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.; material produced by an author who is a member of a protected class as enumerated in the “Law Against Discrimination,” N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.; and material that contains the author’s points of view concerning contemporary problems and issues, whether international, national, or local; but excludes content that is inappropriate for grades served by the school library.



- d. “Individual with a vested interest” means any teaching staff member employed by the Board of Education, any parent of a student enrolled in the school district at the time the removal form required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5 is filed, and any student enrolled in the district at the time the removal form required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5 is filed.
- e. “Library material” means any material including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material, software and instructional material, and other material not required as part of classroom instruction belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of a school library.
- f. “School library staff member” means a school library media specialist, school librarian, any certificated or non-certificated staff member assigned to duties in a school library, or any individual carrying out or assisting with the functions of a school library media specialist or school librarian.

B. Library Material Curation – N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4

- 1. The Board of Education shall have control over the content of this Policy, except this Policy shall at a minimum:
 - a. Recognize that library material should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all students and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole;
 - b. Acknowledge that library material shall not be removed from a school library because of the origin, background, or views of the library material or those contributing to its creation;
 - c. Recognize the importance of school libraries as centers for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas;
 - d. Promote the free expression and free access to ideas by students by prohibiting the censorship of library material;
 - e. Acknowledge that a school library media specialist is professionally trained to curate and develop the school library collection that



provides students with access to the widest array of developmentally appropriate library material available to schools; and

f. Establish a procedure for a school library staff member to review library material within a school library on an ongoing basis, which shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The library material's relevance;
- (2) The condition of the library material;
- (3) The availability of duplicates;
- (4) The availability of more recent developmentally appropriate library material; and
- (5) The continued demand for the library material.

2. The Board of Education, in consultation with school library staff members, shall have discretion in selecting, purchasing, or acquiring library material for inclusion in the school library. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4 or this Policy shall be construed to require the Board of Education to purchase, or otherwise acquire, library material for a school library.

3. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4 and this Policy shall be construed to restrict the Board of Education's authority to select textbooks and school supplies related to the curriculum.

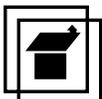
C. Library Material Recommendation and Selection Process

1. The school library staff member in each school building will accept the written requests of teaching staff members for new and revised library material. Each request should include:

- a. The name and originator of the library material;
- b. The publisher or distributor;
- c. A brief description of the library material; and



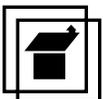
- d. The reason for the request, including the relevance of the library material to the instructional program.
 2. The school library staff member shall review each recommendation against the standards for selection in B.1.f. above and the amount budgeted for library material in the current or succeeding school year, as appropriate.
 3. The school library staff member shall present to the Superintendent or designee a list of recommended purchases of library material. The list will include multiple copies of library material when a high level of interest and need is anticipated.
 4. Standards to be applied in the selection of library material shall relate to, support, and enrich the courses of study adopted by the Board of Education.
- D. Censorship of School Library Material Prohibited, Right to Reserve, Check Out – N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-6
1. The Board of Education shall not remove library material from a school library in the district because of the origin, background, or views of the library material or those contributing to its creation, and shall not engage in censorship of library material.
 2. The Board of Education shall allow a student to reserve or check out any developmentally appropriate library material, including diverse and inclusive material, regardless of the origin, background, or views of the library material or those contributing to its creation.
- E. Removal Request Procedure
- Any request by an individual with a vested interest to have library material removed from a school library in the district shall follow the grievance procedure outlined in Regulation 2535 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5.
- F. Immunity, School Library Staff – N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-7
- A school library staff member who engages in activities as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4 through 18A:34A-6 and B. through E. above shall be immune from civil and criminal liability arising from good faith actions performed pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4 through 18A:34A-6 and B. through E. above.



POLICY

N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-1 through N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-7

Adopted:



2530 RESOURCE MATERIALS

A. Definition

“Resource materials” means all those sources of information for the use of students that have not been designated as textbooks and generally must be shared by individual students. Resource materials include, but are not limited to, reference materials; fiction and nonfiction books; maps; audio and audio-visual materials; pamphlets; periodicals; pictures; online references; other supplementary titles; and other sources of information for use by students that are not designated as textbooks. Resource materials are not library material as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-3 and Policy and Regulation 2535.

B. Selection Process

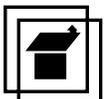
1. The teaching staff member shall submit written requests for new resource materials to the Principal or designee in the teaching staff member’s school building. Each written request should include:
 - a. The name and originator of the resource material;
 - b. The publisher or distributor;
 - c. A brief description of the resource material; and
 - d. The reason for the request, including the relevance of the resource material to the instructional program;
2. All written requests will be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee for consideration; and
3. The Superintendent or designee shall evaluate each written request against the selection standards as outlined in C. below and the amount budgeted for resource materials in the current or succeeding school year, as appropriate.
4. The Superintendent or designee will develop a list of recommended purchases. The list may include multiple copies of resource materials when a high level of interest and need is anticipated.

C. Selection Standards



Standards to be applied in the selection of resource materials are those set forth below:

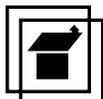
1. Resource materials will be suited to the varied interests, abilities, reading levels, and maturation levels of the students to be served.
 2. Wherever appropriate, resource materials will provide major opposing views on controversial issues so that students may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.
 3. Wherever appropriate, resource materials will include the basic tenets of multiculturalism in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7.
 4. Resource materials will be factually accurate, as appropriate, and of genuine literary or artistic value.
 5. Resource materials will be of a quality and durability appropriate to their intended uses.
 6. Resource materials will relate to, support, and enrich the curriculum adopted by the Board of Education.
 7. Resource materials will support the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
- D. Periodic Removal of Resource Materials
1. The Superintendent or designee shall conduct a periodic review of resource materials for their:
 - a. Continuing usefulness;
 - b. Relevance to the curriculum and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards;
 - c. Representation of the needs and interests of all grade levels, subject areas, and departments; and
 - d. Balance of content, types of resource materials, and manner of presentation.



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2. Standard resource materials subject to frequent use that are worn or missing should be replaced periodically.
3. Outdated resource materials and resource materials no longer relevant to the curriculum may be withdrawn from the collection on Board of Education approval.
4. Any request by an individual for the removal of resource materials will be governed by Policy and Regulation 9130.

Adopted:



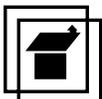
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2535 LIBRARY MATERIAL

Any individual with a vested interest requesting to have library material removed from a school library in the district shall follow the grievance procedure outlined below in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5.

A. Definitions – N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-3

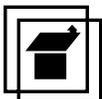
1. For the purpose of Policy 2535 and this Regulation:
 - a. “Board of Education” means a Board of Education as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2, the Board of Directors of an educational services commission, a Board of Trustees of a charter school, a Board of Trustees of a renaissance school project, or any other local education agency.
 - b. “Censorship” means to block, suppress, or remove library material based on disagreement with a viewpoint, idea, or concept or solely because an individual finds certain content offensive, but does not include limiting or restricting access to any library material deemed developmentally inappropriate for certain students.
 - c. “Diverse and inclusive material” means any material that reflects any protected class as enumerated in the “Law Against Discrimination,” N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.; material produced by an author who is a member of a protected class as enumerated in the “Law Against Discrimination,” N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.; and material that contains the author’s points of view concerning contemporary problems and issues, whether international, national, or local; but excludes content that is inappropriate for grades served by the school library.
 - d. “Individual with a vested interest” means any teaching staff member employed by the Board of Education, any parent of a student enrolled in the school district at the time the removal form required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5 is filed, and any student enrolled in the district at the time the removal form required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5 is filed.
 - e. “Library material” means any material including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books,



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supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material, software and instructional material, and other material not required as part of classroom instruction belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of a school library.

- f. “School library staff member” means a school library media specialist, school librarian, any certificated or non-certificated staff member assigned to duties in a school library, or any individual carrying out or assisting with the functions of a school library media specialist or school librarian.
- B. The following procedure shall be adhered to any time an individual with a vested interest submits a complaint requesting removal of library material from any of the district’s school libraries.
1. Complaints about library material shall be made on a request for removal form and submitted to the Principal of the school building in which the library material is challenged to initiate a review of the material.
 2. The individual with a vested interest shall complete and sign a request for removal form available in the Principal’s office. The request for removal form shall include:
 - a. The title, author, and publisher of the library material at issue;
 - b. Sections of the library material to which the individual with a vested interest objects; and
 - c. An explanation of the reasons for the objection.
 3. Within five working days of the receipt of the request for removal form, the Principal or designee shall forward the request for removal to the Superintendent.
 4. Upon receipt of the request for removal form, the Superintendent or designee shall appoint a review committee consisting of:
 - a. The Superintendent or designee;
 - b. The Principal or designee of the school in which the library material is challenged;

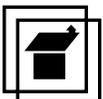


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- c. The school library media specialist or a school library staff member;
 - d. A representative selected by the Board of Education;
 - e. At least one grade-appropriate teacher familiar with the library material, provided the teacher selected is not the individual who submitted the request for removal form;
 - f. A parent of a student enrolled in the school district, provided the parent selected is not the individual who submitted the request for removal form;
 - g. If appropriate, and at the discretion of the Superintendent, in cases where a student enrolled in the district in grades nine through twelve filed the request for removal form, a student enrolled in the district in grades nine through twelve may volunteer to serve on the review committee if that student did not file the request for removal form. The Superintendent shall consult with the Principal of the school involved in the removal request in making this determination; and
 - h. Any additional members the Superintendent or designee deem necessary.
5. The challenged library material shall remain within the school library and available for a student to reserve, check out, or access until there is a final decision reached by the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5.b.(5) and B.7. below.
 6. The review committee members shall evaluate the request for removal form and review the challenged library material in its entirety. The review committee shall meet to discuss the library material and concerns raised and make a recommendation on whether the challenged library material should be removed from circulation, retained, or limited in use. The review committee shall submit its written report with recommendations to the Board of Education no later than sixty school days from the date of the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting after receipt of the request for removal form:
 - a. A copy of the review committee's report shall also be provided to the individual with a vested interest who filed the request for



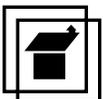
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removal form and the Principal who received the request for removal form.

7. The Board of Education shall review the review committee's report and make a final determination on whether the library material is to be removed from the school library or limited in use. The Board of Education shall provide a written statement of reasons for:
 - a. The removal, limitation, or non-removal of a library material; and
 - b. Any final determination that is contrary to the recommendations of the review committee.
8. The written statement of reasons shall be posted on the Board of Education's website in a prominent and easily accessible location within thirty days of the determination.
9. All decisions on whether to remove from circulation, retain, or limit in use library material shall be based on the library material as a whole, not isolated passages.
10. All request for removal forms and outcomes shall be maintained in accordance with other similar records in the district.
11. Library material that has been challenged pursuant N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5.b.(1) through 18A:34A-5.b.(5), Policy 2535, and this Regulation shall not be subject to challenge for at least one year in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5.b.(6).
12. The district may consolidate requests for removal of the same challenged library material in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5.b.(7).
13. The Board of Education's determination issued in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-5, Policy 2535, and this Regulation which denies a request for removal shall not constitute a controversy or dispute pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9. However, an individual with a vested interest, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-3, may file a petition of appeal of the Board of Education's final determination to remove library material to the Commissioner of Education through the Office of Controversies and Disputes in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and the procedures set forth in State Board of Education regulations.



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14. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-1 through 18A:34A-7, Policy 2535, and this Regulation shall be construed as creating a separate legal cause of action regarding any determination issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-1 through 18A:34A-7, Policy 2535, and this Regulation.
15. A school library staff member who engages in activities as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4 through 18A:34A-6 shall be immune from civil and criminal liability arising from good faith actions performed pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4 through 18A:34A-6.

Adopted:

