Equipment, Books, and Materials: Provision/Selection

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) shall provide educational materials and equipment that support and enrich the curriculum and further the achievement of the Bethany Public School District's (District) instructional goals. Educational materials include textbooks, instructional material and learning material.

Adoption of new textbooks and like educational materials shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board, notice of such intended change having been previously given at a meeting at least one (1) week prior to the vote. Textbooks and like educational material shall be defined as the primary instruction and learning source or basic reading for students in a particular subject and student section in a semester or during the entire school year; supplemental and reference books or materials are not included.

Selection

The selection of educational material will be continuously reviewed to keep up with the expansion of knowledge and the rapid changes in the world and to present balanced views on international, national, and local issues and problems of the past, present, and future. Educational material should further:

1. provide materials to stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic and ethical value;
2. provide materials to help students develop abilities in critical reading and thinking;
3. provide materials to help develop and foster an appreciation of cultural diversity and development in the United States and throughout the world;
4. provide for all students an effective basic education that does not discriminate;
5. allow sufficient flexibility for meeting the special needs of individual students and groups of students.

Any textbook or like educational material that will serve the function as the primary instruction and learning source must be processed through the District Curriculum, Committee and formally adopted by the Board. This applies to a textbook or like educational material that will be used as a primary instructional and learning tool on an ongoing basis with the majority of students in a class, course, or learning group within a class.

Primary learning materials are textbooks, paperback books, audiovisual kits, or other instructional materials which are:

- used for the duration of a course or school year; the majority of assignments are derived from such material, and
- used by all students in a class, course, or learning group within a class.

The District will develop and maintain a procedure for selecting materials which meets the aforementioned criteria. Such procedure shall include the opportunity for professional staff to analyze, evaluate, and recommend primary learning materials for adoption.

Instructional Materials

Basic textbooks, instructional materials, and equipment shall be furnished by the Board of Education for all students with the following exceptions:

1. Materials to be used for special projects not required for credit in a course.
2. Personal clothing items worn for physical education and other in-school athletic activities.

The District will develop rules for textbook and instructional material selection which meets the above criteria, including:

1. analysis, evaluation, and recommendation by professional staff, and
2. the opportunity for interested stakeholders in the District to review recommended textbooks and instructional material.

In accordance with state law, the Board of Education will make the final selection decision relevant to textbooks and instructional material.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-222a

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-228

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-229

President's Council, District 25 v. Community School Board No. 25, 457 F.2d 289 (1972), Cert. Denied 409 U.S.C. 998 (Nov. 1972)

Minarcini v. Strongsville City School District, 541 F.2d 577 (6th Cir. 1976)

Island Trees Union Free School District Board of Education v. Pico, 457 US 853 (1982)

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 09/09/1981)

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991
Policy revised: June 10, 2015
Policy revised: May 10, 2017
Policy revised: April 7, 2021
Policy revised: March 11, 2026

Source: CABE and BPSD