EASTCONN
Where Learning Comes to Life

INSTRUCTION
Series 6000
Policy #6017.23.1

Evaluation of Instructional Materials

General

Instructional materials shall be evaluated consistently and systematically to insure high instructional standards to ensure compliance with Connecticut General Statutes, regulations of the State Board of Education, EASTCONN Board of Directors policy and regulations.

These guidelines are not intended to supplant the professional judgment of staff who evaluate instructional materials — both student materials and teacher materials. Instead, they establish minimum standards for acceptability and provide criteria on which to judge instructional quality.

To portray accurately American cultural and racial diversity, and the male and female roles in our society, instructional materials should encourage students to understand the historical roles and contributions of women and minorities, the forces which shaped those roles and contributions, and how and why the contemporary roles and contributions of women and minorities are different.

Limitations

It may be inappropriate to require a pictorial or textual item to conform to these guidelines, for example in reprinting a story by a well-known author or in a painting by an artist which makes an important contribution to a particular instructional material. In such situations, discussion material should have been included which explains why a particular attitude was prevalent during a certain period in history, and how and why that attitude has changed.

When examining instructional material for adverse reflection on race, creed, sex, etc., the evaluator should make a qualitative judgment with respect to stories or articles having historical perspective. Any description, depiction, inference, label, or retort found to be, by itself, an adverse reflection should not be judged out of context. Rather, the story or article should be examined for appropriate explanations, discussions, or other comments included or immediately attached which may overcome the impact of such offending words or pictures. The instructional material should be rejected only if, on a total basis, the story or article would, in the mind of an average student for whom the material is intended, reflect adversely upon a person because of his or her race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, or occupation.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-18a Contents of textbooks and other general instructional materials

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