

Instruction
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

BP 6163.1 (a)

The Governing Board recognizes that school libraries support the educational program by providing access to a variety of informational and supplemental resources that can inspire a love of reading, stimulate thought, the exploration of ideas and intellectual exchanges, contribute to the academic achievement of all students. The Board desires that school libraries be stocked with up-to-date books, reference materials, and electronic resources that promote literacy, support academic standards, contain a broad spectrum of knowledge and viewpoints, accurately reflect and value society's diversity, and prepare students to become lifelong learners.

The Superintendent or designee may, in consultation with teacher librarians, classroom teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and students as appropriate, develop and regularly update a plan for school libraries that describes the district's goals for school libraries and distribution of funds to school sites to support libraries. As appropriate, the plan may also address staffing, facilities, selection and evaluation of materials, the development and maintenance of classroom libraries, prevention of loss or damage of library materials, prioritization of needs, and other related matters. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the library plan is aligned with the district's local control and accountability plan and other district and school plans.

Staffing

To staff school libraries, the district may employ one or more teacher librarians who possess appropriate credentials issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. (Education Code 18120, 44868; 5 CCR 80024.6, 80053)

The Superintendent or designee may assign teacher librarians to perform the following duties in accordance with the authorizations of their credential: (5 CCR 80053, 80053.1)

1. Instruct students in accessing, evaluating, using, and integrating information and resources in the library program and/or provide departmentalized instruction in information literacy, digital literacy, and digital citizenship
2. Plan and coordinate school library programs with the district's instructional programs through collaboration with teachers
3. Select materials for school and district libraries
4. Develop and deliver staff development programs for school library services
5. Plan and conduct a course of instruction for students who assist in the operation of school libraries
6. Supervise classified personnel assigned school library duties
7. Develop procedures for and management of the school and district libraries

The Board also may appoint classified paraprofessionals to serve as library aides or library technicians. Volunteers may assist with school library services in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

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Hours of Operation

School libraries shall be open for use by students and teachers during the school day. (Education Code 18103)

With the approval of the Board, a school library may be open at other hours outside the school day, including evenings and Saturdays. Any library open to serve students during evening and Saturday hours shall be under the supervision of a certificated employee who consents to the assignment. (Education Code 18103)

Selection and Evaluation of School Library Materials

Library materials shall include print and electronic resources that align with the curriculum and are accessible to students with varying cognitive or language needs.

Library materials shall be evaluated and selected through a process that invites recommendations from administrators, teachers, other staff, parents/guardians, and students as appropriate.

The use of any book or other resource in a school library shall not be rejected or prohibited by the Board or district on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of any individual or group consistent with the requirements of Education Code 51204.5 and 60040, unless such study would violate Education Code 51501 or 60044. (Education Code 243)

Library materials should be continually evaluated in relation to evolving curricula, new formats of materials, new instructional methods, and the needs of students and teachers. Materials that contain ~~obsolete~~ outdated subject matter or are no longer appropriate shall be removed.

All gifts and donations of school library materials shall be subject to the same criteria as materials selected for purchase by the district.

Complaints regarding the appropriateness of library materials shall be addressed in accordance with Board Policy 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials and Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, as applicable.

Fees

Students shall be allowed to borrow school library materials at no charge for use in the library and classrooms as well as out of school. (5 CCR 16042)

Students shall be encouraged to return library materials in a timely manner, but no charge shall be assessed for the late return of materials.

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Library Instruction

Teacher librarians and/or classroom teachers shall provide library instruction to develop students' information literacy skills. Such instruction shall be aligned with state academic standards for library instruction and shall prepare students to:

1. Access information by applying knowledge of the organization of libraries, print materials, digital media, and other sources
2. Evaluate and analyze information to determine appropriateness in addressing the scope of inquiry
3. Organize, synthesize, create, and communicate information
4. Integrate information literacy skills into all areas of learning and pursue information independently to become life-long learners

Teacher librarians also may provide support to teachers, administrators, and other staff by identifying instructional materials that will aid in the development of curriculum and instructional activities and by providing information about effective and ethical uses of school library services and equipment.

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall annually assess and report to the Board regarding the condition and use of school libraries. The assessment shall evaluate, at a minimum:

1. Access of students and staff to school libraries during school hours and, as appropriate, access outside the school day
2. The process and frequency by which students are allowed to check out library materials
3. Staffing levels, qualifications, and number of hours worked
4. The quality of the collection at each library, including, but not limited to, the total number of books in the collection, number of books per student, types of materials (fiction, non-fiction, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, materials in other languages, and reference materials), alignment with curriculum, provision of a broad spectrum of knowledge and viewpoints, amount expended during the year for the purchase of new resources, and the number of resources discarded and added during the year
5. Any special programs offered at the school to encourage reading and/or library use
6. The adequacy of the facility space and equipment designated for the school library
7. The source(s) and adequacy of funding for school libraries
8. Knowledge by principals, teachers, and library personnel of the process to follow when a library material(s) is challenged

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The district shall, on or before August 31 each year, report to the California Department of Education on the condition of school libraries for the preceding year ending June 30. (Education Code 18122)

State

- 5 CCR 16040-16043: School libraries
- 5 CCR 80023-80023.2: Emergency permits; general requirements
- 5 CCR 80024.6: Emergency teacher librarian services permit
- 5 CCR 80026-80026.6: Emergency permits; Declaration of Need
- 5 CCR 80053-80053.1: Teacher librarian services credential
- Ed. Code 1703: Coordination of district library services by county superintendent
- Ed. Code 1770-1775: Provision of library services by county superintendent
- Ed. Code 18100-18203: School libraries
- Ed. Code 18300-18571: Union high school district/unified school district library district
- Ed. Code 19335-19336: Reading Initiative Program; recommended books
- Ed. Code 220: Prohibition of discrimination
- Ed. Code 242: Access to information about educational laws and policies regarding right to accurate and inclusive curriculum
- Ed. Code 35021: Volunteer aides
- Ed. Code 44868-44869: Qualifications and employment of library media teachers
- Ed. Code 45340-45349: Instructional aides
- Ed. Code 48907: Exercise of free expression; time, place and manner rules and regulations
- Ed. Code 48950: Speech and other communication
- Ed. Code 51204.5: Social sciences instruction; contributions of specified groups
- Ed. Code 51501: Nondiscriminatory subject matter
- Ed. Code 60040-60052: Requirements for instructional materials

Management Resources

- California Department of Education Publication: Examples of Model School Library Standards for California Public Schools: Supporting Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, rev. February 2012
- California Department of Education Publication: Looking at the School Library: An Evaluation Tool, 2003
- California Department of Education Publication: Model School Library Standards for California Public Schools: K - 12, 2010
- California Department of Education Publication: Recommended Literature: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve
- California School Library Association Publication: Standards and Guidelines for Strong School Libraries, 2004
- Website: CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
- Website: American Association of School Libraries
- Website: California Department of Education, School Libraries
- Website: California School Library Association
- Website: Department of Justice
- Website: California Department of Education, Curriculum and Instruction Resources
- Website: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

Policy Adopted: 2/14/2024

ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orcutt, California