

IF Textbooks, Instructional Materials and Media Centers

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All textbooks, instructional materials and the selection criteria for media center materials used in the district shall be subject to board approval.

Textbooks and instructional materials shall support the district's instructional goals and learning objectives. Media center materials shall support and supplement the curriculum, promote wise use of leisure time, develop literary discrimination and appreciation, and encourage students to become productive citizens.

Textbook selection criteria shall be established by the board.

Challenges to textbooks, instructional materials or media center materials shall be considered in a manner prescribed by board policy.

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Selection Criteria: Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Textbooks and instructional materials shall provide:

An effective education for all students;

Factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards;

Practice for students to develop abilities in critical thinking, communication, mathematics and science skills.

Information which helps students develop an appreciation of American cultural, ethnic and racial diversity and balanced views concerning international, national, state and local issues and problems; and

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Sufficient flexibility for meeting the special needs of individuals and groups.

The superintendent shall develop selection procedures which meet the above criteria which shall include a review of available material by instructional staff members.

Selection Criteria: Media Center Materials

Materials shall be chosen for accuracy, artistic quality, format and authoritativeness. Materials shall be chosen on various reading levels presenting different points of view, including current issues.

Books and other media materials shall be evaluated before purchase, either through direct examination or by using reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared selection tools.

The media center(s) shall obtain, process and circulate materials and equipment and provide references and other services to students and faculty. Media specialists shall work toward providing resources so that students have an opportunity to achieve high levels of performance.

Collection Development

The media collection shall be developed systematically, be well balanced in coverage of subjects, include various types of materials and a variety of content in various formats.

The collection shall reflect, enrich and complement the broad interests represented in the curriculum. The collection should be large enough to allow materials to be placed in classrooms for extended periods of time.

Challenges of Materials (See IKD, KN)

Any person having a complaint about textbooks, media center or other instructional materials shall meet with the principal. If the matter cannot be resolved the principal shall notify the superintendent and ask the complainant to use a request for review form which is available through building principals or at the district office. After receiving the completed form, the superintendent shall meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint.

If the complaint is not resolved at the meeting with the superintendent, the complainant may request that the board consider the complaint. If the board chooses to consider the complaint, it shall forward all appropriate written materials to a review committee.

Review Committee

When a review committee is established by the board to handle complaints concerning textbooks, media center or instructional materials, the review committee shall be composed of:

The building principal, media specialist, two subject area specialists and two community members.

The committee's charge shall be:

To review the material and prepare a written report containing conclusions and recommendations within 30 days;

To direct a written report to the board; and

To send the complainant a copy of the report.

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The Review Committee Shall:

Examine and evaluate the material as a whole; consider the district's policy, procedure and philosophy for selection of textbook, instructional materials and media center materials; and

Weigh strengths and weaknesses and form opinions based upon the selection criteria.

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the committee's recommendation, an appeal of the decision may be made to the board for a hearing and final decision. If an appeal is requested by the complainant, the superintendent shall request that the board schedule an appeal and shall prepare in advance of the appeal all appropriate documentation for the board's study.

Removing Challenged Materials

Challenged materials shall not be removed from use during the review period.

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