

## Instruction

**SUBJECT: SELECTION OF LIBRARY AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS**

The Board of Education agrees that the responsibility of the school library is:

- a) To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of the students served.
- b) To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards.
- c) To provide a background of information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
- d) To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.
- e) To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to our American heritage.
- f) To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

In interpreting these principles, the following will apply:

- a) Broad and varied collections will be developed systematically by the librarian and the audiovisual specialist, based on recommendations of the professional staff and suggestions of students and parents. Final approval will be made by the building principal.
- b) Qualitative standards of selection involving factual accuracy, authoritativeness, artistic quality and appeal will be applied by librarians and audiovisual specialists before purchases are made.
- c) Materials will not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political opinions or religious views of the author.
- d) Materials will be continuously re-evaluated in relation to changing curriculum and instructional needs. Worn out, out-dated materials will be discarded.

Rules of the Board of Regents Section 21.4

Adopted: 8/22/06

## Instruction

**SUBJECT: ACADEMIC FREEDOM/TEACHER SELECTION OF AND/OR TEACHER SUPPLIED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Board of Education recognizes the right of the teacher to provide information that will enrich and support the curriculum while, at the same time, taking into consideration the needs of the individual student especially as it regards the diversity of learning styles, varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of students. Classroom discussion and/or selection of supplemental instructional materials by the teacher must be of educational merit, reflect the appropriate curriculum and/or course of study, and reflect the diverse needs of the students served.

Further, the Board believes that such academic freedom also carries with it educational responsibility that is determined by the basic ideals, goals, and policies of the School District. While the Board is opposed to unrestricted censorship or restraint that interferes with the educational responsibility of the classroom teachers, the Board also expects that controversial issues will be presented in a fair and unbiased manner, without undue pressure or coercion by the classroom teacher to impose his/her opinion on the students.

As a consequence of Board responsibility to guarantee academic freedom to both students and teachers, and as befits their professional status, teachers are encouraged to provide appropriate supplementary instructional materials for classroom use in addition to District provided materials in accordance with administrative regulations.

**Use of Video Tapes/Films in Classroom Instruction**

Teachers who wish to use video tapes and/or films in classroom instruction must follow established administrative regulations for the school. Additionally, teachers who wish to utilize such video tapes and/or films in their classroom must not use such purchased or rented visual technology resources which are marked "For Home Use Only." Teachers are authorized to use for classroom instruction, and are responsible for securing, those films, videos and other visual technology resources which are designated for public performance, or for which permission for public performance has been obtained. When such resources are not selected from designated curriculum guides utilized by the school, prior to such use, teachers must report to their building principal or his/her designee, of their intention to use such materials in the classroom.

**Implementation**

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to develop administrative regulations to implement the terms of this policy. Further, the District shall ensure that its administrative/instructional personnel shall be aware of District policy and regulations pertaining to this topic.

Education Law Section 1709(3)

Adopted: 8/22/06