



Section: I: Instructional Program
Title: Textbooks, Instructional Materials and Media Centers
Number: IF
Status: Active
Adopted: 2/6/1996
Revised: 8/2/2016

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

Textbooks and instructional materials shall support the district's instructional program. 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.

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
- 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 appropriate 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, and include various types of materials and ~~a variety of~~ diverse content in multiple various formats.

The collection shall reflect, enhance ~~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

Any student, parent, or legal guardian of a student currently enrolled in the district ~~person~~ having a complaint about textbooks, media center or other instructional materials shall meet with the teacher, media specialist, or principal. If the concern is addressed to a teacher or media specialist, they shall report the matter to the principal. If the matter cannot be resolved, the principal shall notify the superintendent and ask the complainant to complete a request for review form which is available through building principals or at the district office ~~the complainant may appeal to the superintendent~~. ~~The superintendent, or designee, shall meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint~~. After receiving the completed form, the superintendent shall review and consider the request.

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

Review Committee

Composition of Review Committee

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

The building principal, library media specialist, two subject area specialists, and two community members, and one student. If the request for review proposes that the material is inappropriate

for minors, the student representative may be left off the committee. The superintendent shall be responsible for appointing review committee members, unless otherwise determined by the school board on a case-by-case basis

Purview of Review Committee ~~The committee's charge shall be:~~

The review committee shall examine and evaluate the material as a whole; consider the district's policy, procedures, and philosophy for selection of textbooks, instruction materials, and media center materials; weigh strengths and weaknesses; and form opinions based upon the selection criteria.

Written Report

Within 30 days of receiving access to the challenged materials, the review committee shall review the material and prepare a written report containing conclusions and recommendations for the board of education.

- ~~• 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.~~

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 board receives simultaneous challenges on multiple material or if circumstances render the 30-day timeline impracticable, the board may extend the committee's deadline to complete its review.

No reviews will be conducted during summer break or when school is not in session for one week or longer. The timeline for any review shall be tolled during such breaks.

Board Review and Action

The board shall review the recommendation of the review committee within 30 days of receipt thereof and may accept the review committee's recommendation, reject the review committee's recommendation, or make its own determination regarding the challenged book or material.

The decision of the board is final.

~~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 ~~may~~ shall not be removed from use during the review period at the discretion of the superintendent.

Impact of Simultaneous Requests

If more than one request for review is received simultaneously, or, if one or more requests for review is received while another review is pending, timelines established in this policy may be extended by the superintendent or the board to allow the requests to be processed in turn. When more than one request for review is received on the same book or material, such requests may be consolidated to reduce redundancy in review at any stage of this process.