

Instruction

Library Materials Selection

We are living in an information age. A primary objective of education is to learn how to identify, locate, organize, and present needed information in a clear, concise, and persuasive manner. As technologies change, students need to develop skills to manage complex information formats. The school library program, as an integral part of the total curriculum, is the vehicle that provides opportunities for students to achieve these skills and to foster a lifelong interest in both reading and knowledge. Each student, therefore, should have access to an effective, integrated school library program that reflects the curriculum and the needs of the school community and the world in general.

School library materials will be selected by the School District to support and enrich the educational program. Materials will serve both the breadth of the curriculum and the needs and interests of the faculty and students. It is the obligation of the District to provide for a wide range of abilities and to respect the diversity of many differing points of view. Library materials are defined as all electronic, print, and non-print resources used by students and teachers for the District's educational program.

The following general selection criteria will apply to all materials, including electronic, print, and non-print resources:

1. Library materials shall support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the state and district and the aims and objectives of the individual schools and specific courses.
2. Library materials shall meet high standards of quality in factual content, artistic and literary value, and presentation.
3. Library materials shall be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social development of students for whom materials are selected.
4. Library materials shall meet the needs and interests of students and faculty.
5. Physical format and appearance of library materials shall be suitable for their intended use.
6. Library materials shall be current and up-to-date.
7. Library materials shall be selected to help students gain an awareness of our diverse society.
8. Library materials shall be selected for their strengths rather than rejected for their weaknesses.

9. The selection of library materials on controversial issues will be directed towards maintaining a diverse collection representing various views.

The library staff in collaboration with the faculty, parents and students will select materials for school libraries. Professionally recognized reviewing periodicals, standard catalogs, and other selection aids will be used by the library staff and other faculty to guide them in their selection.

LEGAL REF.: Illinois School Code, Sec.

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