№ File: IJL - LIBRARY RESOURCES

The primary objective of the library media center is to offer resources to enrich and support the educational program of the school.

Definition of Library Media Resources

Library media resources are those materials, both print and non-print, found in school library media centers which support students' educational, emotional, and recreational information needs and interests. Print items include but are not limited to books, magazines, newspapers, and pamphlets. Non-print items include, but are not limited to online subscriptions, databases, art prints, videotapes, DVDs, compact discs, computer software, Informational Communication Technology (ICT) hardware, and other realia.

Criteria for Selection of Library Media Resources

The School Committee endorses the School Library Bill of Rights, as adopted by the American Library Association, which asserts that the responsibility of the school library is to:

- 1. Provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.
- 2. Provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
- 3. Provide a background of information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
- 4. Provide materials on opposing sides of the controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under the guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking
- 5. Provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
- 6. Place principal 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.

A variety of professional tools are available and shall be used to aid librarians in the process of selecting resources that support alignment with the library media center's primary function.

Given the responsibilities of the library media center, the criteria for selection of library media resources in the District are:

Needs and interests of the individual student:

- Based on the curriculum of the school.
- Based on requests of students, staff, and parent/guardians.

Needs of the individual school:

- Based on the curriculum of the school.
- · Based on requests from the staff.

Initial purchase suggestions for library media material may come from all personnel - teachers, coordinators, and administrators. Students will also be encouraged to make suggestions. The librarian will recommend materials to be included in the school library media center. Final approval and authority for distribution of funds will rest with the building Principal subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

Gifts of library media materials will be accepted in keeping with the above policy on selection.

In accordance with the District's policy of providing instructional materials on opposing sides of controversial issues, it should be noted that neither the media centers nor the District serve as advocates for the ideas expressed in any materials, nor does the presence of any material indicate automatic endorsement of the ideas expressed therein. Complaints about library media materials will be handled in line with Committee policy on complaints about instructional materials.

№ File: IJLAA - RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

This policy covers all resources including instructional, library, and supplementary materials. When a problem concerning instructional material in a school arises, the disposition of the problem will be made in a reasonable period of time using District adopted procedures. Material that is challenged usually belongs to one of the three basic categories: religion, ideology or profanity/obscenity. Board policies regarding these areas shall be as follows:

Religion- Factual, unbiased material on religions has a place in the school libraries.

Ideologies- Libraries should, with no thought toward swaying reader judgment, make available a balanced collection of primary and factual material, on the level of their students on various ideologies or philosophies which exert or have exerted a strong force, either favorably or unfavorably, in government, current events, politics, education and other phases of life.

Profanity/obscenity- Materials shall be subjected to a test of literary merit and reality in context using the criteria established.

No questioned materials shall be removed from the school pending a final decision. Pending the outcome of the Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Material, access to questioned materials can be denied to the students of the parents/guardians making the complaint if requested.

If the decision of the School Committee is that the questioned instructional resource be retained, the District will not convene a review committee relative to the same complaint for a period of three years. If a substantially different point of view is advanced, it will be investigated.

If an individual or a group undertakes action to keep material from the shelves by checking it out and failing to return it, or by taking turns in keeping it checked out so that it is not available for student use, the Superintendent shall request in writing the return of the material. If it is not returned within thirty (30) days, the party holding the item will be billed for the current replacement cost.

After the School Committee has adopted new materials or approved certain methods, that decision will not be reconsidered for a period of three years beginning with the end of the school year when the adoption is made.

CROSS REF.: IJ, IJL, IJK

Approved: May 23, 2017