

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

This Board recognizes that school libraries are essential to academic development and high levels of student achievement. The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are standards 2, 5 and 18. It will be the policy of this District that a learning media program, which meets the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, be provided in each elementary and secondary school in the District.

Each school media center will serve in an instructional support capacity, and the media specialist will work cooperatively with teachers in all curriculum areas to plan and to coordinate the use of materials, equipment, and services which help meet instructional objectives.

As a minimum, all students in each school will have access to a central library, which houses a balanced collection of books, reference materials, periodicals, and newspapers. These materials will be catalogued and organized, using standard library procedures. In accordance with Mississippi Public Accountability Standard 2.3, 2016, and Miss. Code Ann. §37-17-6(3), it is the expectation of the Board of Trustees that the District employs in each school a licensed librarian or media specialist who devotes no more than one-fourth of the workday to library/media administrative activities.

The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his or her designee to establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy.

Purchases of materials in multiple formats, designed to support the instructional goals and information needs of the school population shall be those recommended by licensed library media specialists, teachers and administrators guided by a district approved collection development policy.

Factors influencing selection shall be:

The impact of the school library's collection on student success and achievement.

A well-balanced collection that is both age and content appropriate reflecting interest levels and abilities of students.

Materials consisting of diverse topics and appealing to all students' backgrounds and genders.

Materials are purchased from a proposed annual allocated school/district budget based on assessment of needs, student enrollment, status of library

collection and the credibility of recommendations for purchase by selection tools.

Print/non-print material format consisting of substantial binding and paper, clear print, clean graphics, and technology assistance with access for electronic material compatibility with infrastructure and equipment.

It shall be the policy of this school district that each school has a library media center with an organized collection of materials and equipment that represents a broad range of current learning media, including instructional technology which meets the minimum standards of the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation, Commission on School Accreditation, be provided in each elementary and secondary school in the district. In an effort to provide greater access to materials, the District utilizes an online system made available by the Mississippi Department of Education.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District; Mississippi School Boards Association

LEGAL REF.: Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards 2016 – 2.3, 2.3.1, 18, 18.1 and 18.2.

DATE: November 27, 1978

AMENDED: August 4, 2016
November 28, 2017

REVIEWED: July 2017