

## **LIBRARY/MEDIA MATERIALS**

The primary objective of the District library material selection procedure is to provide students and teachers with a wide range of educational materials on all levels of difficulty and in a variety of formats, with diversity of appeal, allowing for the presentation of many different points of view. To this end, the Board, in keeping with the ideas expressed in the School Library Bill of Rights, asserts that the responsibility of District media specialist is:

- To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the pupils served.
- To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
- To provide a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
- To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking.
- To provide materials representative of many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to our American heritage, thereby enabling students to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgments.
- 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 selection appropriate for the users of the library.

### **Responsibility for Selection of Materials:**

The identification, selection and recommendation of library materials is primarily the function of the professional staff of the District. Selection of library materials will be guided by the instructional needs of the individual schools, the adequacy of recommended materials in meeting adopted curriculum goals, and the strengths and weaknesses within the existing collection of materials. While professional staff will be encouraged and supported in applying the listed guides to select and recommend library materials, the Board retains sole authority for approving the library materials utilized in the District.

### **Criteria for Selection of Materials:**

The major criterion for the selection of resources is the educational suitability of the resource for its intended use. Media specialists will use educational criteria and professional judgment rather than personal opinions, values, or beliefs in the selection of resources. All materials purchased or accepted as gifts will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the curriculum
- Relevance to students' informational and recreational needs

- Suitability of subject
- Format and level for intended audience
- Quality and variety of format
- Importance of subject matter to the collection
- Scarcity of materials on the subject
- Published and/or broadcast reviews or inclusion in special bibliographies and indices
- Authority and significance of the author, composer, filmmaker, etc.
- Reputation of the publisher or producer
- Timeliness and/or permanence
- Student interests
- Provision of alternate viewpoints
- Quality of writing, design, illustrations, or production
- Relevance to school community standards
- Potential and/or known demand
- Cost

### **Gifts**

Gifts of books or other materials may be accepted, but incorporation into the school library media center's collection is based on collection needs and the judgment of the media specialists. All gifts are subject to evaluation by the criteria for selection of materials. Commercially prepared materials are accepted if they meet the selection standards, are intended to inform and not to promote sales, and are free from excessive advertising.

### **Withdrawing Materials**

Each media specialists will evaluate the collection on a continuing basis to identify materials in need of repair, replacement, or withdrawal. The following criteria are considered when withdrawing materials:

Physical condition

Currency of information

Availability

Permanent value

User demand

Other coverage of subject material

Available space

### **Replacement**

Replacement of materials is not automatic but considered in relation to the school collection. Materials to be withdrawn from the District or school collection will be disposed in accordance with state statute.

The Board authorizes the superintendent to establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy.

SOURCE: Mississippi School Boards Association

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