

District Policy & Regulations

BOARD OF EDUCATION COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
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SELECTION AND CHALLENGE OF LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS

The purpose of this selection policy is to insure that the Columbus School Library Media Centers' collections are current, balanced, and reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of our society accurately and without bias.

A quality media collection will afford all students the opportunity to grow in the ability to find materials helping them resolve problems they confront in today's modern society. Resources regarding social, political, economic, national, international, and private concerns need to be provided for students of differing abilities (developmental, social, or intellectual), backgrounds, and interests. The Columbus School District must have media that are appropriate for students in Grades K-12 with a variety of backgrounds, ability levels, and interests. The number of materials in each of the core curricular areas should be in relation to the school time spent in that subject area. Professional materials should be available for staff growth.

The objectives of the Library/Media Program are:

- 1) To promote intellectual freedom and free access to books, ideas, resources, and information
- 2) To have materials in a variety of forms and formats to meet individual learning needs that support learning the District's curriculum.
- 3) To select materials that represent a diversity of viewpoints and lifestyles.
- 4) To provide materials that students may read, view, or listen to for pleasure and recreation.
- 5) To select professional books and journals for staff development.
- 6) To provide reference materials.

The selection process must include a continual evaluation process of existing materials. The media specialist is responsible for evaluation with recommendations as to the usefulness of materials from the principal, teachers, students, and parents. Collections must be kept current and in line with curriculum changes, new text adoption, changing student populations, and new technological developments.

Library Media Center materials donated to the District should be judged with the same criteria as those used in the purchase on new materials.

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The value of a collection diminishes when it includes many items that are unsuitable because of physical deterioration, inaccurate or outdated content, depiction of stereotypes, or inappropriateness for the age group being served. Materials weeded for these reasons may be discarded, replaced, rebound, or sold as the occasion demands. Weeding should be a carefully planned, ongoing procedure that reflects the same care given to the original selection process.

The Board of Education is legally responsible for all media selected within the instructional program of the Columbus School District with the selection of media delegated to the certified media specialists on staff. However, with the exception of normal collection weeding, only the Board of Education may remove an item from the District's collection.

The ultimate decision regarding the appropriateness of reading matter for any student rests with that student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

The District shall not discriminate in selection and evaluation of instructional materials on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

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