

SENSITIVE AND/OR CONTROVERSIAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

As the governing body of the school district, the Board is legally responsible for the selection of instructional materials. Since the Board is a policymaking body, it delegates to professional personnel of the district the responsibility for the selection and use of instructional and library materials in accordance with the policy below.

Materials for school classrooms and school libraries will be selected by the appropriate professional personnel in consultation with the administration and faculty. Final decision on purchase will rest with the superintendent or designee, subject to official adoption by the Board in the case of basic textbooks.

The appropriate use of supplementary instructional visual aid materials, i.e., films, film strips, cassette film tapes, computer software, etc., is encouraged and supported by the Board of Education.

The Board's first commitment in selecting and adopting textbooks, along with other instructional aids, will be the preservation of the students' right to learn in an atmosphere of academic freedom. Secondly, the Board will support the teachers' right to exercise professional judgement in their work; but, at the same time, will require teachers to balance this right with an awareness of their responsibility to meet the educational goals and objectives of the school system.

The Board recognizes the right of parents to influence the education of their child. Toward a purpose of protecting this right, it will be the policy of the Board that in such instances, before sensitive or controversial reading materials and/or visual aids are utilized within any classroom setting, individual parental authorization be secured from each students' parent/guardian.

It will be the responsibility of each divisional administrator to develop procedural staff guidelines to assure that students are exposed only to those textbooks and instructional materials that fall within the below perceived responsibilities of the district:

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

The aforementioned principles, adopted from the School Library Bill of Rights of the American Association of School Libraries, will serve as a guide in the selection of all instructional and library materials.