

The School recognizes that knowledge and processes are basic and essential to the survival of a democratic society and that the professional staff has the right and the responsibility to select instructional materials that are of the highest quality. The School shall provide a wide range of instructional materials that support the demonstration of competency mastery, appeal to diverse audiences, and present differing points of view in order to ensure a comprehensive experience that meets the needs of students as embodied within the competency statements. Instructional materials, both print and non-print, should provide quality learning experiences for students and:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration varied interests, readiness-levels, and learning styles.
2. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
3. Provide background information to enable students to make informed judgments in their daily lives.
4. Present opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may have the opportunity to develop, under the guidance of staff, the practice of critical analysis, debate, exchange, and argument.
5. Reflect a range of views that are representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups that have made a contribution to our American heritage and pluralistic society.
6. Be consistent with the School Mission Statement, School Board policies and administrative rules and procedures.

Definition of Instructional Materials

Instructional materials, both print and non-print media, whether commercially acquired or locally produced, include, but are not limited to, books, audio and video recordings, multimedia materials, technological materials, and supplemental materials.

Responsibility and Criteria for Selection

The responsibility for the selection of instructional materials is delegated by the School Board to professionally trained and qualified personnel employed by the School, in accordance with the objectives listed above and based on the following criteria:

1. Contribution to the curriculum and interests of the students.
2. Educational relevance and significance.
3. Favorable reviews found in a variety of selection sources.
4. Favorable recommendations based on preview, examination and/or piloting of materials by professional personnel.

5. Reputation and significance of the author, artist, composer, producer, or publisher.
6. Accuracy and authoritativeness.
7. Age-appropriateness of the material relative to the presence of violence/disturbing images, sex, drug use and abuse, and profanity, taking into consideration the individual student.
8. Contribution of the material to the breadth of representative viewpoints of controversial issues.
9. Readability, view ability, and degree of student appeal.
10. Artistic, scientific, and/or literary quality.
11. Reflective of the pluralistic character and culture of people in both the United States and the global community.
12. Timeliness and permanence.
13. Technical quality and durable format.
14. Cost-effectiveness.

The primary objective of this policy is to implement, enrich, and support the School's educational mission and to place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of high quality materials.

Educational materials to ensure competency mastery shall be provided.