

LIBRARY-MEDIA MATERIAL SELECTION

The Board of Directors is legally responsible for all matters relating to the operation of the schools, including the provision and maintenance of library-media resources that support the curriculum.

While the Board retains its authority to approve the selection of library materials, it recognizes the educational expertise of its professional staff and the need for such staff to be involved in the recommendation of library materials. The Board delegates responsibility for the selection of library-media resources to the professionally trained personnel employed by MSAD #56, subject to the criteria and procedures for selection and Board's policy on challenged materials as described below.

Each school shall maintain a library-media program that includes books and other print materials, multimedia materials, online Internet resources and information technology that supports the curriculum. A certified library-media specialist will be responsible for overseeing the library-media program, under the supervision of the Principal.

Definitions

Library-Media resources include books, print materials, online/Internet resources (including access), multimedia materials and information technology that, as part of the library-media program, support the school system's curriculum.

Objectives of Selection

The Board recognizes that it is the primary objective of library-media resources to extend and enrich the educational programs of the schools. Quality library-media resources are essential to student learning. In preparing students to meet the content standards of the Learning Results, in supporting the achievement of MSAD #56's education goals and objectives, and in providing enrichment opportunities that expand students' interests and contribute to a desire for life-long learning, it is the responsibility of the library-media center of the school to provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, in a variety of formats, with diversity of appeal and presentation of different points of view.

Criteria for Selection

Library-media materials and resources selected should:

1. Support achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results
2. Support the goals and objectives of the MSAD #56 educational programs
3. Enrich and support the curriculum of the schools
4. Take into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served
5. Foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity and varied opinions

6. Give comprehensive, accurate and balanced representation to minorities and women in history, science, leadership and the arts and acknowledge the contributions of ethnic, religious and cultural groups to our American heritage
7. Present a balance of opposing sides of controversial issues to enable students to develop a capability for critical analysis
8. Promote achievement of the state academic, social, and civic expectations for learning
9. Stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards
10. Provide a background of information that will enable students to make intelligent decisions in their daily lives
11. Contribute to a current collection development plan

Other factors that should be considered are accuracy and currency of material; importance of the subject matter; scholarship; quality of writing and production; balance to the whole collection; avoidance of duplication if not desired; reputation and significance of the author, artist or composer; and quality vs. expense. In evaluating software, multimedia materials and online/Internet resources, additional factors that should be considered include purpose for use; content; format (degree of interactivity or student involvement desired); effects of graphics, sound and animation; feedback provided; and ease of use.

Procedure for Selection

Meeting the needs of the students and teachers, based on knowledge of the curriculum and the existing collections, shall be the highest priority.

Encyclopedias should be replaced, at the most, every five years. The Library collection should undergo continuous examination for condition and currency. Materials that are inaccurate should be removed immediately, unless thought to have archival value. Materials that are in disrepair should be removed until such repairs can be made. A thorough weeding of the collection using established criteria should be undertaken every 3-5 years.

Donated materials

Gift materials are to be evaluated by the same criteria as purchased materials, and are to be accepted or rejected by those criteria and in accordance with Board policy on gifts and donations.

Parental authority

Library media center materials are available to all students and will not be removed from the collection because of criticism except in accordance with Board policy.

Challenged materials

Occasional objections to instructional materials will be made despite the quality of the selection process; therefore, the procedure for handling reconsideration of materials in response to questions concerning their appropriateness is stated in Board Policy KEC.

The principles of intellectual freedom are inherent in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and are expressed in the *Library Bill of Rights*, adopted by the Council of the American Library Association and in the ALA's *The Freedom to Read* statement. In the event a complaint is made, the complainant will be invited to put the complaint into writing using the appropriate form. If the complainant chooses to file a formal complaint the procedures to follow are outlined in Board policy IJJ-E and KEC. In the event that there is a formal challenge to material on file the Librarian will notify the Maine Association of School Librarians' Office of Intellectual Freedom and report to them any subsequent decisions or actions.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 20-A MRSA §§ 1001 (10-A); 1055 (4); 4002
 Ch. 125 §§ 9.01, 9.03 (Me. Dept. Of Ed. Rules)
 P.L. 107-110 § 1061 (No Child Left Behind Act)

CROSS REFERENCE: IJJ-E, Instructional and Library-Media Materials Challenge
Form
 KEC, Public Complaints About Instructional Materials

ADOPTED: April 8, 1986

REVISED: July 8, 2003