

LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The district procures library books and other media available to learners that are not part of a specific class or curriculum. For purposes of this policy, those will be called library materials. This policy addresses the selection and review of library materials, regardless of their source. This policy applies regardless of whether library materials are purchased using district funds, donated, or shared at no cost to the district.

Responsibility for Selection and Management

Responsibilities for actual selection and management shall rest with the appropriately trained library personnel who shall fulfill this obligation consistent with district policy for the adopted selection and management criteria and procedures.

1. The ~~professionally endorsed librarian or certified librarian~~ **designated** library staff employed by the school district are responsible to oversee the selection of all library/media materials and resources.
2. Selection of materials will be assisted through the use of preview examination, recommendations, standard evaluation aids and faculty consultation. The ~~professionally endorsed librarian or certified librarian~~ **designated library** staff will be responsible for evaluation and recommendation of all library materials recommended to be included in the school library.
3. Final approval and authority for distribution of funds will rest with the building principal, subject to the approval of the Superintendent and in keeping with the Board-approved budget.
4. Management of materials will be the responsibility of the professionally endorsed librarian or certified library staff.

Criteria for Selection

1. The materials selected should be carefully balanced so that various viewpoints on any subject are included.
2. The materials selected should support and enrich the curriculum and/or learners' personal interests and learning.
3. Three sets of key factors will be considered in the selection of materials:
 - a. Meets high standards in literary, artistic, and aesthetic quality; technical aspects; and physical format.
 - b. Is appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social, emotional, and intellectual development of the learners for whom the materials are selected.
 - c. Incorporates accurate and authentic factual content from valid sources for non-fiction materials.
4. The District subscribes to the principles expressed in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. It is the responsibility of the school district to provide a wide range of materials on different levels of difficulty and representing different points of view. Professionally trained and/or certified library personnel will provide materials on opposing viewpoints on controversial issues to enable learners to develop necessary critical thinking skills to be users of information and productive members of society.
5. A parent/guardian may request restricting access to school library materials for their learner by completing the designated form found on the district website.

The District will not select obscene library matter or materials. For the purposes of this policy, obscene matter or materials is defined as material:

- The dominant theme of which, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest, which is a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex, or excretion, which goes substantially beyond customary limits of candor in description or representation of such matters; and
- Patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sado-masochistic abuse or sexual conduct; and
- Lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Legal References: [SDCL 22-24-27](#) (Obscenity and public indecency - definition of terms)
 [SDCL 22-24-55](#) (Restrict access to obscene materials)
 [SDCL 22-24-57](#) (Complying public school or library not liable for damages)

Cross References: [KH - Public Gifts to Schools](#)
 [KLB - Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials](#)

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