

MESSALONSKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT (MSAD 47)

File: IJL

LIBRARY MEDIA MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The purpose of the library media center materials selection policy is to guide the library personnel and to inform the public of the principles that guide materials selection.

Basic to this policy is the School Library Bill of Rights as approved by the American Association of School Librarians. (See attached.)

Policy for Selection

The Board declares it is its intent to provide a wide range of instructional materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal and presentation of different points of view and to allow for review of allegedly inappropriate materials through established procedures.

Responsibility for Selection

The Board is legally responsible and delegates to the library media specialists, working cooperatively with the building principals and staff, the responsibility of coordinating and recommending the selection and purchase of library media center materials.

Objectives of Selection

In order to assure that the school library media program is an integral part of the educational program of the school, the selection objectives are as follow:

1. to provide materials to enrich and support the curriculum and the personal needs of users, taking into consideration their varied interests, abilities, and learning styles;
2. to provide materials to stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards; and
3. to provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so users may develop under guidance the practice of critical analysis.

The Board recognizes that the final authority as to what materials an individual student will be exposed rests with the student's parents or guardians. However, at no time will the wishes of one child's parents to restrict his/her viewing or reading of a particular item infringe on another parent's rights to permit their child to read or view the same material.

Criteria for Selection

Materials selection should reflect the current trends in education and communication as suits the educational program.

The educational goals of the local school district, individual student learning modes, teaching styles, curricula needs, faculty and student needs, and existing materials within the District should be considered in developing collections. Guidelines for evaluation and selection include the following items:

Materials should:

- contribute to objectives of the instructional program;
- be appropriate to the level of the user, with appropriate concepts, content, and vocabulary;
- represent differing viewpoints regarding controversial subjects;
- provide a stimulus to creativity;
- be relevant to today's world, facts being accurate and up-to-date;
- represent artistic, historic, and literary qualities;
- be readable, typographically well-balanced, and logically arranged;
- contain pertinent, well executed illustrations; and
- be of acceptable technical quality, with clear narration and sound, and synchronized pictures and sound.

Procedures for Selection

In selecting materials for the school library program the library media specialists, in consultation with the principals, will:

- evaluate the existing collection;
- assess curricula needs;
- preview materials; and
- consult reputable selection aids (including School Library Journal, Science Books and Films, Booklist, Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books).

Recommendations for acquisition will be solicited from faculty and students. All non-print media shall be previewed and evaluated prior to purchase by the library media specialists or other professional staff.

Gift materials shall be judged by the criteria listed above and will be accepted or rejected on the basis of those criteria.

Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials no longer appropriate and the replacement of lost or worn materials still of educational value. Materials removed from the collection will be disposed of by the librarians at each level in consultation with the principal.

Procedures for Reconsideration of Materials

See Files: KLE and KLEE, Policies and Procedures for a Citizen's Challenge of Educational Media - Adopted December 19, 1973.

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LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948.
Amended February 1, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980,
by the ALA Council.