

LEARNING RESOURCES SELECTION

Selection of Learning Resources

It is the policy of the Board to provide a broad range of learning resources to enrich and support the curriculum and to meet the needs of the students.

A. Guidelines

The term "learning resources" will refer to any source of information with instructional content or function that is used to enrich and support the curriculum in the teaching/learning process.

To this end, the Board affirms that it is the responsibility of the District:

1. To provide resources that are aligned with the District and State benchmarks, standards and course outcomes;
2. To provide resources in a variety of formats that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, learning styles and maturity levels of the students served;
3. To provide resources that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and societal standards;
4. To provide resources that present various sides of issues that allow for critical analysis and link learning to world beyond classroom;
5. To provide resources representative of the contributions of diverse groups, to our national heritage and the global community;
6. To select learning resources, including those with unorthodox or unpopular points of view, guided, as is appropriate, by principles incorporated in the Freedom to Read Statement, The School Library Standards, and the use of District approved materials selection forms provided by the CITA Department.

B. Responsibility for Selection of Learning Materials

The Board is legally responsible for the selection of materials and delegates the responsibility to CITA and the professional staff employed by the school system.

The Board authorizes CITA to develop guidelines for the criteria for the selection of learning materials.

C. Instructional Methods

Academic freedom exercised by a teacher shall be exercised within the District's legitimate pedagogical concerns. Teachers are expected to be cognizant of the age and maturity of the students and the developmental appropriateness of topics and issues. Instruction shall also adhere to the Instructional Practices Policy 2300, Adoption of Courses of Study Policy 2220, and Curriculum Development Policy 2210. Teachers will be guided by the following standards of professional responsibility:

1. Instruction is aligned with state and District standards and benchmarks.
2. Instruction is aligned with the mission and guiding principles of the District's strategic plan.
3. The teacher shall encourage students to study varying points of view and respect their right to form their own judgments.
4. Staying within the intent of the author(s), the teacher shall be allowed to interpret and use the writings of others and educational research.

D. Dealing with challenged Materials

The Board directs the administration to develop guidelines for dealing with challenged materials. Any resident or employee of the school District may challenge learning resources used in the District's educational program on the basis of appropriateness. This allows the District to consider the opinions of those persons in the schools and the community who are not directly involved in the selection process. The challenges of learning resources begins at the building level. Challenged materials will remain in use until the process is completed and a decision is made.