

Instruction

Library Media Materials Selection Policy

This library materials selection policy is rooted in and supportive of the following documents:

1. The Constitution of the United States of America, especially the First Amendment.
2. Academic Freedom in the Secondary Schools, American Civil Liberties Union, 1968.
3. The Students' Right to Read, National Council of Teachers of English, 1962.
4. Intellectual Freedom Documents of the American Library Association.
5. Goals and Philosophy Statements of the Norwich Public Schools.
6. Goals and Philosophy Statement of the Department of Library Media Services, Norwich Public Schools.

I. GUIDELINES FOR MATERIALS SECTIONS

It is the policy of the Public Schools of Norwich to establish procedures in the selection and approval of books and media materials that will:

Support and enrich all subjects of the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interest, abilities, and maturity levels of the pupils served.

Present the diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and portray the role of their contribution in the development of America.

Give an extensive background of information and factual knowledge, which will enable pupils to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.

Support and be consistent with the objectives and goals of specific courses of study approved by the Norwich Board of Education.

Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.

Present all aspects of social, economic and political systems and issues so that students have practice, under guidance, in the processes of critical reading, thinking and evaluating—processes that undergird an informed citizen's part in the preservations of American institutions and ideals.

Offer the student an opportunity to develop an awareness of a social order, which values freedom and allows for the fullest development of the individual.

Develop life-long habit of wide reading, which fosters freedom in the exchange of ideas, a basic principle in the operation of democracy.

II. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION

The purchase of library media materials is legally vested in the Board of Education. The Board delegates to the Superintendent the responsibility to develop final recommendations for purchase. The actual selection of materials is the responsibility of professionally trained personnel on the library media staff who know the courses of study, the methods of teaching, and the individual differences of the pupils. The library media specialist will choose materials that are keyed to the interests and needs of the students and faculty and that will open up possibilities in cultural, social and economic fields. In this task, the library media specialist will be aided by purchase suggestions from administration, faculty, and students.

III. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Criteria for the selection of materials are consistent with the guidelines for materials and selection noted above and are based on the needs of the individual school, as determined from a knowledge of the curriculum and requests of administrators and teachers, the needs of the individual student as determined from a knowledge of children and youth and the request of parents and students.

Materials are examined for selection of those in which the presentation and the subject matter are suitable for the grade and the interest level at which they are used.

Gift materials will also be judged by the above criteria.

Policy Adopted: 8/23/88

Policy Revised: 1/22/08

NORWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norwich, Connecticut

