

606A Selection and Review of Resources

Board adopted MSBA Policy 606 and made Selection & Review of Resources an addendum Policy 606.

Board Revised: March 7, 2022

Board Reviewed: January 20, 2026

It is the policy of Independent School District #162 to provide a wide range of instructional materials which represent (1) all levels of difficulty, (2) diversity of appeal, and (3) different points of view. It is also the policy of the district to allow the review of allegedly inappropriate materials through established procedures.

- I. Selection objectives: When instructional materials are considered for selection, the following objectives should be met:
 - A. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum and needs of the users, taking into account their varied interests, abilities and learning styles;
 - B. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards;
 - C. To provide a background of information which will assist users in making intelligent judgements in their daily lives;
 - D. To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that users may develop under guidance the practice of critical analysis;
 - E. To provide materials which realistically represent our pluralistic society and reflect the contributions made by individuals and groups to our heritage with appropriate consideration to multi-culturalism and gender-fairness;
 - F. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of the highest quality materials to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users.
- II. Responsibility for Selection of Resources: The Board of Education is legally responsible for all matters relating to the operation of the district's schools. The responsibility for the selection of resources is delegated by the Superintendent to other professionally trained personnel employed by the school district.
- III. Criteria for Selection: The criteria for selection of resources are as follows:
 - A. Needs of the individual school based on
 - (1) knowledge of the curriculum

- (2) existing resources
- (3) technological considerations
- B. Overall purpose
- C. Timeliness or permanence
- D. Importance of the subject matter
- E. Quality of writing/production
- F. Readability and popular appeal
- G. Authoritativeness
- H. Professional reputation of the publisher/producer
- I. Professional reputation and significance of the author/artist/composer
- J. Format and price
- K. Suitability to audience
- L. Requests from citizens, faculty and students

IV. Challenged Resources; Occasional objections to resources will be made despite the care and procedures followed in their selection. To advise the Board of Education in its decision-making process regarding a challenged resource, a committee to review such resources is hereby established

The committee should be composed of members appointed by the Board of Education as follows:

- A. Two members of the Board of Education
- B. One secondary school principal
- C. One elementary school principal
- D. One media specialist
- E. One elementary school teacher
- F. One secondary school teacher
- G. Four residents of the school district.

The responsibilities of the committee include:

- A. Informing the complainant and professional staff member(s) involved of the time and place of the review meeting.
- B. Examining resources referred to it in their entirety.
- C. Examining general acceptance of the resources.
- D. Weighing values and faults and forming opinions on the resource as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context.
- E. Discussing the resource and the complainant's objections in the context of the educational program.
- F. Hearing testimony
- G. Making a decision regarding the challenged resource. A majority vote by secret ballot will determine the decision.
- H. Submitting a written report to the Board of Education reflecting the

decision of the committee. Copies of the report shall also be sent to the complainant, superintendent, appropriate building principal and involved staff members.

If a member of the committee is also a complainant, a temporary replacement will be appointed by the Board of Education. After completion of the review process, the member will return to the committee.

Appeals of the review committee's decision may be directed to the Board of Education.

V. Procedural Steps Initiated by Complaint: if a complaint is made, (A complaint is defined as a verbal or written statement of opposition to a resource, requesting that it be removed or restricted) the procedure to be followed is:

- A. Treat each complaint courteously and confidentially, but make no commitments.
- B. Direct each complainant to the building principal
- C. The building principal will invite the complainant to submit a written summary.
- D. The written summary will be submitted to the chairperson of the board appointed review committee.

This procedure applies to all requests for review including those originating from school personnel and school board members.

VI. Status During Review: During the review process, the use of challenged resources shall not be restricted.