

Instruction

Instructional Materials 1

All District classrooms and learning centers should be equipped with an evenly-proportioned, wide assortment of instructional materials, including textbooks, workbooks, audio-visual materials, and electronic materials. These materials should provide quality learning experiences for students and:²

1. Enrich and support the curriculum;
2. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
3. Provide background information to enable students to make informed judgments and promote critical reading and thinking;
4. Depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society; and
5. Contribute to a sense of the worth of all people regardless of sex, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other differences that may exist.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide a list or description of textbooks and instructional materials used in the District to the School Board. Anyone may inspect any textbook or instructional material.³

Teachers are encouraged to use age-appropriate supplemental material only when it will enhance, or otherwise illustrate, the subjects being taught. No R-rated movie shall be shown to students unless prior approval is received from the Superintendent or designee, and no movie rated NC-17 (no one 17 and under admitted) shall be shown under any circumstances. These restrictions apply to television programs and other media with equivalent ratings. The Superintendent or designee shall give parents/guardians an opportunity to request that their child not participate in a class showing a movie, television program, or other media with an R or equivalent rating.⁴

Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption

The Superintendent shall approve the selection of all textbooks and instructional materials according to the standards described in this policy.⁵ The School Code governs the adoption and purchase of textbooks and instructional materials.⁶

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls some of this policy's content.

² A local board may customize these standards to be consistent with the board's mission, vision, and goals.

³ This paragraph is optional; either or both sentences may be struck although the second sentence describes a right granted by statute. 105 ILCS 5/28-19.1. The requirement to provide the board with a list or description of texts and instructional material allows the board to monitor this policy's implementation. Moreover, as 105 ILCS 5/28-19.1 grants anyone the right to inspect texts and instructional materials, having an annual list of texts and instructional materials facilitates compliance with such a request. Because some instructional materials, e.g., Internet sites, are difficult to list, the sample policy permits a list or *description*. Federal law grants parents/guardians the right to inspect all instructional material that will be used for a survey, analysis, or evaluation. 20 U.S.C. §1232h. See 7:15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*.

⁴ This paragraph is optional. Its content is at the board's discretion. While allowing parents/guardians to opt their child out of viewing such material is not a legal requirement, it is a best practice.

⁵ An alternative provision:

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board for consideration and adoption all textbooks and instructional materials and shall include the following information: (1) title, publisher, copyright dates, number of copies desired, and cost; (2) any texts being replaced; and (3) rationale for recommendation.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.8 and 5/28-19.1.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/28. The term *textbook* includes electronic or digital textbooks used for educational purposes. 105 ILCS 5/28-20. The term *instructional materials* means both print and non-print materials, including electronic textbooks being used in the educational process. Id.