
Note: For information related to the selection of instructional materials, see EFA.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the District provides a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. This policy also provides standards for collection development and the selection and evaluation of library materials.

School Library Advisory Council

The Board has established a school library advisory council (SLAC). At the first meeting of the SLAC, the members shall select a chair.

The SLAC shall meet at least two times each year but may hold additional meetings in order to consider recommendations from District staff and fulfill its statutory duties.

Collection Development Policy

In this policy, "library materials" is defined by law and may include printed and electronic library acquisitions, including online catalogs, and other ancillary or supplementary materials maintained in a campus library. [See EFB(LEGAL)]

The library collection development standards shall apply to all library materials available for use or display, including material contained in school libraries, classroom libraries, ~~and online catalogs~~online catalogs, library mobile applications used in the District, and any other library catalog a student may access.

In developing library collections, the District shall consider the age groups, grade levels, and access to library material by all students on a campus.

Responsibility

The District shall ensure the members of the SLAC, librarians, digital information specialists, professional library staff, and other designated professional staff are trained or receive information on the proper collection development standards ~~select and acquire library materials in accordance with state law and rules, this collection development policy, and administrative procedures.~~

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that library collections comply with applicable law, library standards, and the District's collection development purpose and goals.

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Collection Development Goals

In addition to the requirements in state law and rules, the District's library collections shall:

1. Present multiple viewpoints related to controversial issues [see EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues].
2. Provide a wide range of background information that will enable students to make intelligent decisions in their daily lives.
3. Include accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources.
4. Have a high degree of potential user appeal and interest.
5. Offer a global perspective that promotes equity of access, including print and nonprint materials such as electronic and multimedia, to meet the needs of individual learners.
6. Represent diverse viewpoints and ~~cultures appropriate~~cultural groups of the state and their contributions to each campus~~the state, the nation, and the world,~~ to ensure the collection embodies the ~~unique~~ background of ~~its student population~~all students.

~~Selection~~Recommendation and ~~Evaluation~~Procurement of Materials

Library materials shall be ~~selected~~recommended and ~~acquired~~procured in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the District standards and priorities expressed in this policy.

~~When selecting, acquiring, Librarians and evaluating other professional staff shall assist the SLAC in developing the list of library materials, material recommendations to be presented to the Board. The~~ librarians, digital information specialists and other professional staff shall ensure that the materials:

7. Enrich and support the TEKS and the state and local curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, maturity levels, abilities, and learning styles.
8. Foster growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.
9. Encourage the enjoyment of reading, foster high-level thinking skills, support personal learning, and encourage discussion based on rational analysis.

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10. Represent ethnic, religious, and cultural groups of the state and their contributions to the state, the nation, and the world.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrative procedures regarding the selection and development of recommendations of library materials consider at least two of the following factors:

11. Recommendations from students, parents or guardians, teachers, and District community members residents.
12. Consultation with District teachers and library staff.
13. Consultation with library staff from other districts.
14. Extensive review of the library material.
15. Context of the library material, including overall fit within the existing collection and support of District curriculum.
16. Reviews of the library material from sources such as professional journals in library science, recognized professional education or content journals with book reviews, national and state award recognition lists, library science field experts, and highly acclaimed author and literacy expert recommendations.
17. Coverage of topics, authors, series, or genres that fill gaps in the school library collection.

The SLAC shall recommend to the Board a list of library materials for procurement.

The Board shall consider the SLAC's recommended list of library materials that have been donated or proposed by the SLAC for procurement. Each Board member may propose changes before the Board takes action on the list of donated or proposed library materials.

The Board shall either approve or reject the library materials that have been donated or proposed for procurement.

Donated and Proposed Procurement List

At least 30 days prior to the Board's vote to accept donated library materials or approve procurement of library materials, the Superintendent shall make accessible to the public the list of library materials in accordance with law.

Access Plan

The District shall allow efficient parental access to the District's library and any available online catalogs.

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Online catalogs shall be publicly available. The District shall publish information about library material titles, including how and where material can be accessed.

Each campus shall communicate the following to parents and guardians:

- Access to policies relating to school libraries and library materials;
- Consistent access to library materials and resources; and
- Opportunities for students, parents and guardians, educators, and community members to provide feedback on library materials and services.

Parental Involvement

Parents and guardians are the primary decision-makers regarding their ~~student's~~child's access to library material. In general, a student is afforded the opportunity to self-select library materials as part of literacy development and the library program. District staff may assist a student in selecting library material; however, the ultimate determination of appropriateness ~~and access to library materials~~ remains with the student and parent or guardian. Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with the campus librarian or digital information specialist and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their ~~student~~child.

In accordance with state law and administrative procedures, parents or guardians may submit to the principal or a staff member designated by the principal a list of library materials that the parent's or guardian's child shall not be allowed to check out or access for use outside of the school library. The Superintendent shall develop procedures that permit a parent or guardian to submit the request in at least one of the methods permitted by law.

The parent or guardian may select alternative library materials for their ~~student~~child. [For information on parental rights regarding instructional materials and other instructional resources, see EFA(LEGAL).]

The District shall focus on maximizing transparency with parents while meeting student needs and providing enrichment opportunities with library materials. Parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities is encouraged.

Access Procedures

School Library

A parent or guardian who wishes to access a school's library shall first submit a request to the principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall work with the parent or guardian to determine a time to access the library that will not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt student use of library services.

Online Library Catalog

A parent or guardian who wishes to access ~~an online~~the catalog of library materials for any school in the District shall submit a written request to the school's principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall respond to the request in accordance with administrative procedures.

Protection from Inappropriate Material

In accordance with law and guidance from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, library materials shall not include "harmful material," which describe, depict, or portray sexually explicit content in a way"; any library material that is offensive to prevailing standards in the local community with respect to what is suitable for minors.

"Sexually explicit material" means any communication, language, or pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable; any library material, including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, other than containing indecent or profane content; any library material directly related to the curriculum required that refers a person to a website, including by use of a link or QR code, containing content legally prohibited under Section 28.002-law; or any other material legally prohibited from inclusion in a public school library. [See EFB(LEGAL)]

Obscene material is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Library materials shall comply with the ~~Children's~~Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), including technology protection measures. [See CQ]

ReconsiderationChallenge of Library Material

A District employee, a parent or guardian of a District student, or ~~resident of the~~a District resident may ~~request the reconsideration of a~~challenge library material maintained in the District's library program.

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The SLAC shall recommend to the Board for adoption the procedures for challenging library materials.

Guiding Principles

The following principles shall guide the review of a ~~request to reconsider a challenge of~~ library material:

18. An individual may ~~raise an objection to a challenge~~ library material used in the District's library program, despite the fact that the professional staff ~~selecting, SLAC, and the materials were qualified to make the selection, Board~~ followed the proper procedure, and adhered to the objectives and criteria for recommending and procuring library materials set out in this policy.

~~19. A parent's or guardian's ability to exercise control over instruction and instructional resources, including library materials, extends only to his or her own child as set forth in Education Code Chapter 26.~~

20-19. Access to a challenged material shall not be restricted in all district libraries during the reconsideration challenge process, except the District may deny access to a student if requested by the student's parent or guardian.

In addition to compliance with state law and this policy, a criterion for the final decision on challenged library materials is the appropriateness of the material for its intended use. No challenged library material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed in the library material or the personal background of the library material's author or the personal background of the characters in the material.

Informal Reconsideration

~~When the District or a campus receives an objection to the appropriateness of a library material, the appropriate librarian, digital information specialist, or administrator shall try to resolve the matter informally. The librarian, digital information specialist, or administrator shall explain the selection process and discuss the intended purpose for the library material.~~

~~The librarian, digital information specialist, or administrator shall offer a concerned parent or guardian an alternative library material to be used by the child in place of the material and, if requested, shall restrict the child's access to the material objected to by the parent or guardian.~~

~~If the individual wishes to make a formal challenge, the administrator shall make available to the individual a copy of this~~

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~~policy and a form to request a formal reconsideration of the library material.~~

~~*Formal Request for Reconsideration*~~

~~The Formal Challenge~~

~~The District shall make the Texas Education Agency form to challenge library material available on the District's website.~~

~~If a District shall make a form available to request reconsideration of library material if resolution is not reached through informal reconsideration.~~

~~If an employee, a parent or guardian of a District student, or resident of the District resident wishes to request reconsideration of a challenge library material, they shall follow the procedures to complete and submit the request for reconsideration challenge form.~~

~~In addition to copies of the completed form.~~

~~After a request for reconsideration form is submitted, the form shall be being provided to the Superintendent. Copiesmembers of the formSLAC in accordance with law, copies shall also be provided to the Board, the Superintendent, the school librarian, the Board, and any other staff designated in administrative procedures.~~

~~*Reconsideration Committee*~~

~~For purposes of this policy, "days" shall mean District business days, unless otherwise noted.~~

~~The shall appoint a reconsideration committee and notify committee members within business days of receiving the request for reconsideration form.~~

~~The formal reconsideration committee shall include a campus administrator, a librarian/digital information specialist, a classroom teacher, and at least three parents. The committee may include at least one member of the instructional staff who has experience using the challenged material with students or is familiar with the challenged material's content. Other members of the committee may also include a District administrator and any other appropriate staff member. The committee shall be comprised of a minimum of seven members and shall have an odd number of voting members.~~

~~Within business days of appointment of the committee the District shall provide members of the committee the relevant materials to review. If additional time is required to obtain and distribute the materials for review, all members of the committee shall be informed that a reasonable extension of time is needed.~~

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~~All members of the committee shall review the challenged library material in its entirety and determine whether the material conforms to this policy and whether the material will continue to be available in the library. The committee shall prepare a written report of its findings.~~

~~Absent extenuating circumstances, the written report shall be provided to the administration within business days of the District providing the material to the committee members. In calculating timelines under this policy, the day the committee is provided the materials is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."~~

~~Extensions of time due to extenuating circumstances shall take into consideration the time necessary to convene the committee members, the amount of material being reviewed, and any other pending reconsideration requests being handled by the committee.~~

~~An extension of any deadline shall be promptly communicated to the individual who submitted the request for reconsideration.~~

SLAC Recommendation

The SLAC shall consider the challenge in accordance with Board-adopted procedures and in accordance with law and shall make a recommendation to the Board.

Any meeting of the SLAC or a review committee, if any, must comply with the meeting requirements under Education Code 33.025(g) and (h), including required notices, meeting minutes, audio or video recordings, and submission of minutes and audio or video recordings of the meeting to the District.

The Superintendent, the school librarian or digital information specialist, the individual submitting the ~~request for reconsideration~~challenge, and any other appropriate ~~administrators~~staff shall receive a copy of the ~~committee's report~~SLAC's recommendation.

Appeal

An individual who submitted a ~~request for reconsideration~~challenge may appeal the decision of the ~~reconsideration committee~~SLAC to the Board in accordance with ~~appropriate complaint policies, starting at the level immediately preceding Board consideration of a complaint. [See DGBA and FNG]~~the challenge procedures.

When considering the appeal, the Board shall consider the factors in Education Code 33.027(f). The Board shall consider appeals in accordance with timelines set out in law.

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Frequency of Review

After a library material has been ~~reviewed through~~challenged and the ~~reconsideration process~~Board determines not to remove the library material from a school library catalog, it ~~shall~~may not be ~~reviewed~~challenged again ~~within two calendar years~~before the second anniversary of the ~~reconsideration committee's~~Board's final decision ~~not to remove the material~~.

Removal of Library Materials

If a challenge to a library material results in the removal of the library material from the school library catalog, each teacher assigned as the classroom teacher at the grade level for which the library material was removed shall be notified and instructed to remove any copy of the library material from the teacher's classroom library, if applicable.

Maintenance of Library Materials

In accordance with state guidelines and District administrative procedures, collections shall be evaluated and updated regularly based on the collections' age, relevance, diversity, and variety. The Superintendent shall ensure administrative procedures are established for regular maintenance of the library collection on each campus. Standard maintenance procedures for any library collection include repair, replacement, and removal of materials as necessary. Regular maintenance shall also include scheduled inventories of the collection. Disposal of any District-owned library materials shall be in accordance with District policy and procedures. [See CI]

Gifts and Donations

The ~~District~~Board shall accept gifts and donations of library materials with the understanding that the use and disposition of the materials and monies will be in accordance with District policy and the selection criteria noted above. [See CDC]

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed at least every three years and revised as necessary.