

606 TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for selection of textbooks and instructional materials.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes that selection of textbooks and instructional materials is a vital component of the school district's curriculum. The school board also recognizes that it has the authority to make final decisions on selection of all textbooks and instructional materials.

III. RESPONSIBILITY OF SELECTION

- A. While the school board retains its authority to make final decisions on the selection of textbooks and instructional materials, the school board recognizes the expertise of the professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be primarily involved in the recommendation of textbooks and instructional materials. Accordingly, the school board delegates to the superintendent the responsibility to direct the professional staff in formulating recommendations to the school board on textbooks and other instructional materials.
- B. In reviewing textbooks and instructional materials during the selection process, the professional staff shall select materials that:
 - 1. support the goals and objectives of the education programs;
 - 2. consider the needs, age, and maturity of students;
 - 3. foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity and varied opinion;
 - 4. fit within the constraints of the school district budget;
 - 5. are in the English language. Another language may be used, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, 124D.59 to 124D.61;
 - 6. permit grade-level instruction for students to read and study America's founding documents, including documents that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of America's representative form of limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and patriotism; and
 - 7. do not censor or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in original source documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records.
- C. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing procedures and guidelines to establish an orderly process for the review and recommendation of textbooks and other instructional materials by the professional staff. Such procedures and guidelines shall provide opportunity for input and consideration of the views of students, parents, and other interested members of the school district community. This procedure shall be coordinated with the school district's curriculum development effort and may utilize advisory committees.

IV. SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The superintendent shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of progress on the part of staff and others involved in the textbook and other instructional materials review and selection process.
- B. The superintendent shall present a recommendation to the school board on the selection of textbooks and other instructional materials after completion of the review process as outlined in this policy.

V. RECONSIDERATION OF TEXTBOOKS OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The school board recognizes differences of opinion on the part of some members of the school district community relating to certain areas of the instruction program. Interested persons may request an opportunity to review materials and submit a request for reconsideration of the use of certain textbooks or instructional materials. Access to the materials in question shall not be restricted until the procedures listed below have been fully completed and a decision to remove or restrict the materials has been made.

B. Formal Request for Reconsideration of a Textbook or Other Instructional Resource

- 1. A Formal Request for Reconsideration of a textbook or other instructional resource is initiated upon submission of a completed [Formal Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Resource or Specific Library Collection Material](#) form. The form must be completed in its entirety for each resource that is subject to a request for reconsideration and submitted to the school principal. The principal shall notify the superintendent or the superintendent's designee of receipt of a completed Formal Request form.

The district will respond to Formal Request for Reconsideration within 60 school contract days. One challenge will be addressed by the committee at a time.

If specific instructional material is the subject of a Formal Request for Reconsideration and a final decision is made to retain the specific instructional material, then the specific instructional material shall not be subject to additional requests for reconsideration for three years following the date of final resolution of the initial Formal Request for Reconsideration.

- 2. The Superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall appoint an Instructional Materials Review Committee (Review Committee) upon receipt of a Formal Request for Reconsideration. This committee shall include:
 - a. One member of the school district administration
 - b. One principal
 - c. Two teachers of the discipline named in the complaint (one of which shall be the content area lead teacher)
 - d. Two members of the school district community with no direct connection with the request for reconsideration
 - e. Two student representatives (as appropriate to the specific request).
- 3. The Review Committee chair shall establish a date upon which it will discuss

the request and whether the specific instructional material conforms to the selection criteria set forth in this policy.

4. The Review Committee
 - a. may consult individuals, organizations, and other resources with relevant professional knowledge on instructional material;
 - b. shall examine the specific instructional material's area of concern;
 - c. shall examine the specific instructional material as to its conformance with the criteria for selection of instructional materials; and
 - d. shall submit a written report to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee containing the Review Committee's decision on whether to retain, to remove, or to take other action regarding the specific instructional material.
5. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall inform the requestor and the school board of the Review Committee's decision.
6. The requestor shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Review Committee to the superintendent and the school board.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction – Knowledge and Skills)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.235 (American Heritage Education)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 2 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (School Board Responsibilities)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59-124D.61 (Education for English Learners Act)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.10 (State Officials and School Board Members to be Disinterested; Penalty)
Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)
Pratt v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 831, 670 F.2d 771 (8th Cir. 1982)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)

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