

Instruction

Library Media Program ¹

The Superintendent or designee shall manage the District's library media program to comply with (1) State law and Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rule and (2) the following standards:

1. The program includes an organized collection of resources available to students and staff to supplement classroom instruction, foster reading for pleasure, enhance information literacy, and support research, as appropriate to students of all abilities in the grade levels served.
2. Financial resources for the program's resources and supplies are allocated to meet students' needs.

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

¹ State law and ISBE rule control some aspects of this policy's content. Districts that want to be eligible for the State school library grant funding must adopt Standard #5 or its alternative (see the next paragraph, below); otherwise, no policy is required. 75 ILCS 10/8.7, added by P.A. 103-100. Standards #1-4 restate requirements in 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(o). Standard #2 implements the rule's requirement that each "district's annual budget shall include an identifiable allocation for resources and supplies for the program." However, the rule allows a unit district serving fewer than 400 students or an elementary or high school district serving fewer than 200 students to forego the allocation requirement; thus, they may use the following alternative to standard #2: "Resources are sufficient to meet students' needs."

Regarding Standard #5, in order to be eligible for a School Library Grant, a district must also be a member in good standing of a regional multitype library system (e.g., Illinois Heartland Library System or Reaching Across Illinois Library System) or have applied for membership and been approved for membership in such a system within specific timeframes. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §3035.120. The American Library Association's (ALA) *Library Bill of Rights* (available at <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>) includes the following:

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
7. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use.
8. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

If the board prefers the alternative language permitted by 75 ILCS 10/8.7, added by P.A. 103-100, for Standard #5, substitute with the following:

The practice of banning books or other materials within the District's library media program is prohibited.

If a board adopts the alternative language for Standard #5, the district must also implement administrative procedure 6:230-AP, *Responding to Complaints About Library Media Resources*, using the alternative language in its f/n 1. A district that utilizes the alternative language and is applying for a State School Library Grant should submit policy 6:230, *Library Media Program*, and administrative procedure 6:230-AP, *Responding to Complaints About Library Media Resources* to the Ill. State Library as part of the eligibility certification for the grant.

Standards #6 and #7 may be customized or deleted, and other standards may be added.

3. Students in all grades served have equitable access to library media resources.
4. The advice of an individual who is qualified according to ISBE rule is sought regarding the overall direction of the program, including the selection and organization of materials, provision of instruction in information and technology literacy, and structuring the work of library paraprofessionals.
5. The program adheres to the principles of the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, which indicate that materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
6. Staff members are invited to recommend additions to the collection.
7. Students may freely select resource center materials as well as receive guided selection of materials appropriate to specific, planned learning experiences.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members who believe that library media program resources violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy may file a complaint using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.²

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria consistent with this policy for the review of objections. Parents/guardians, employees, and community members with suggestions or complaints about library media program resources may complete a *Library Media Resource Objection Form*. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian, employee, or community member, as applicable, of the District's decision.³

LEGAL REF.: 75 ILCS 10/8.7.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(o).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs)

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² Limiting the scope of complainants in this policy to parents/guardians, employees, and community members aligns with sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

³ The issue of school library book removals is an unsettled area of law that is often litigated; consult the board attorney for advice regarding challenges to school library books or other library resources. In the only U.S. Supreme Court case to address this issue, Island Trees Union Free Sch. Dist. No. 26 v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982), the Court issued a plurality (not a majority) opinion finding a board could not remove books it had characterized as "anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic, and just plain filthy," if the removal was motivated by partisan or political reasons; to do so would violate students' Constitutional right to receive information and ideas. Four dissenting justices, however, disagreed that students have a right to receive information and ideas under the First Amendment and would have deferred to the judgment of the local school board.