

Press Plus Issue #111 March 2023 - Policy Committee Meeting 4/21/23

1. Action to be taken:

CONSENT

1st READING

STAY IN COMMITTEE

2. Policy Committee to Determine:

Adopt as Presented

Adopt with Additional District Edits

Not Adopt (change "reviewed" date)

Document Status: Draft Update

Instruction

6:230 Library Media Program

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.
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. Staff members are invited to recommend additions to the collection.
6. Students may freely select resource center materials as well as receive guided selection of materials appropriate to specific, planned learning experiences.
7. The program is guided by the principles of the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretation for school libraries. [PRESSPlus1](#)

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*. [PRESSPlus2](#)

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. [PRESSPlus3](#)

LEGAL REF:

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420\(o\)](#).

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:210 (Instructional Materials)

ADOPTED: December 2, 2008

REVISED:

REVIEWED: September 6, 2018

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Optional. The American Library Association's (ALA) *Library Bill of Rights* 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.

See <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill> and its interpretation for school libraries at: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/accessresources>. The ALA's interpretation of its *Library Bill of Rights* acknowledges that the educational level and program of the school necessarily shape the resources and services of a school library, but it states that the principles of the *Library Bill of Rights* apply equally to all libraries, including school libraries. **Issue 111, March 2023**

PRESSPlus 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*. **Issue 111, March 2023**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to subscriber and Ill. Council of School Attorneys member feedback regarding management of library book challenges. 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. 852 (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.

See sample administrative procedure 6:230-AP, *Responding to Complaints About Library Media Resources*, and sample exhibit 6:230-AP, E, *Library Media Resource Objection Form*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 111, March 2023**