

Harlem School District - Library Material Selection Policy

Books and other materials are selected to enhance and support the curriculum of Harlem Schools. The learning centers provide materials to serve the diversified needs and individual interests of our students. The learning centers work to provide a range of materials of all levels of difficulty, in various formats that is representative of many different points of view.

Criteria for Selection

1. Favorable reviews found in professional library selection sources
2. Literary and artistic excellence
3. Requests of staff and students
4. Reputation and significance of the author, publisher, or producer
5. Readability and accuracy
6. Quality, durability, format, and price
7. Contribution to the curriculum and educational goals of the school
8. Timeliness or currency of material
9. Contribution to the diversity of representative viewpoints of controversial issues

Selection Tools

A.L.A. Award winners
Best Books for Young Adults
Booklist
A Core Collection for Young Adults
Edgar Award winners
Horn Book
Kirkus Review
Library Journal
Notable /Best Books (A.L.A.)
Publisher 's Weekly
Professional Recommendations
Reference Books for School Libraries
School Library Journal
State Award Nominees
Voice of Youth Advocates
Wilson 's Catalog

Professional Responsibility and Intellectual Freedom

Recognizing that an atmosphere of free inquiry is essential to the educational process and in order for our students to participate fully in a democratic society, it is the professional responsibility of the school librarian to defend the principle of freedom to read. The

librarians adhere to the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, which is also supported by the Illinois School Library Media Association. Furthermore, materials shall be chosen for values of interest and enlightenment of students in the schools. Books shall not be excluded simply because of the language, style, or views of the writer. The fact of sexual incidents or profanity appearing in a book will not automatically disqualify it. Rather the decision should be made on the basis of whether the book presents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with, and *I* or whether the book is of literary value.

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. 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 origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. 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.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. 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.

Adapted June 18, 1948. Amended February 2, 1961 and January 23, 1980. Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996 by the ALA Council.

APPROVED: