

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Library Monitoring Rubric: Section 2.3

Librarian Growth Rubric: Standard 6

School Library Guide: Section 4.1



## SCHOOL LIBRARY SELECTION POLICY LIBRARY MATERIALS

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

REVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

### Philosophy

The library in each school is an integral part of the school curriculum. Existing primarily for education purposes, the library offers enrichment and resource materials for students and faculty. Materials are selected from all forms of media available for interest, vocabulary, maturity, and ability levels of all students within the school, and it supports all departments of the school curriculum. The school library provides additional materials to attract students to reading, viewing, and listening as sources of pleasure and recreation over and above needed subject content. It attempts to foster reading as a lifelong activity through pleasurable exposure to print and non-print material.

### Objectives

1. To provide and maintain a collection of book and non-print materials designed to complement and enrich the school curriculum.
2. To provide resource materials for students and faculty.
3. To make available varied materials of use and interest to both students and faculty.
4. To provide a wide selection of books for leisure reading and to promote a varied selection by students.
5. To provide a well-balanced collection of materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that students may develop the practice of critical reading and thinking.
6. To provide material representative of many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to our American heritage.
7. To consider the needs, interests, and abilities of individual students.
8. To provide instruction and guidance in the use of the library and research materials.
9. To keep the collection up-to-date and relevant to the learning community served.

### Responsibility for Selection of Materials

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for the selection of instructional materials. The authority is delegated to the professional personnel of the district for the selection of these materials.

Library materials at each school are selected cooperatively by the librarian in consultation with the administration, faculty, students, parents, and other community members. Selection is a cooperative, continuing process. Final recommendations for purchase rest with the librarian with the approval of the school principal and district superintendent.

## Criteria for Selection

Educational goals, curriculum needs, faculty needs, students' reading level, maturity level, background, needs and interests, and existing materials will be taken into consideration in developing the library collection.

Recommendations by the administrators, faculty members, students, parents, and other community members will be considered. Material selected should be favorably reviewed in one or more current or retrospective professional reviewing tools. Some examples of industry-recognized review sources include, but are not limited to:

### H.W. Wilson Company's Core Collections

Children's Core Collection  
Fiction Core Collection  
Graphic Novel Core Collection  
Middle and Junior High Core Collection  
Senior High School Core Collection

### Journals

*Booklist*  
*The Book Report*  
*Library Talk*  
*Media and Methods*  
*School Library Journal*  
*Voice of Youth Advocates*

## Reconsideration Policies and Procedures

All materials selected will have been judged on the basis of relevance or permanent value, accuracy, authoritativeness, clear presentation and/or readability, and format. Insofar as it is practical, materials will be provided which present all points of view. Materials will not be excluded because of race, nationality, religion, or political views of the writer. When doubt arises about one of the possible selections whether print or non-print, approval copies will be examined by the librarian and at least two other members of the faculty.

The following procedures will be followed when a citizen challenges the appropriateness of an item in the library collection:

1. When a complaint is received which specifically relates to any materials in the library, an informal discussion will be held to determine the nature of the complaint.
2. When necessary, a Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources form will be provided to the complainant to fill out and return to the building principal.
3. The Request for Reconsideration will be forwarded to an ad-hoc library review committee, appointed by the superintendent, which will consist of the librarian, a reading specialist and/or teacher from the school, the building principal, the director of library media services (if applicable), and a parent member of the school management team.
4. A meeting of this library review committee will be scheduled within two weeks of the receipt of the Request for Reconsideration.
5. Material will be judged by the committee as to its conformance with the criteria for selection listed.
6. The written decision of the committee will be forwarded to the superintendent, who will inform the Board of Trustees and the complainant of the committee's decision.

7. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision, a request may be submitted to the superintendent requesting the Board of Trustees or a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees to review all of the proceedings. The Board of Trustees will then render a final decision as to the appropriateness of the materials in question.
8. Challenged materials may remain in circulation until the process is completed.

### **SAMPLE LETTER TO COMPLAINANT**

(Source: American Library Association)

Dear

We appreciate your concern of the use of \_\_\_\_\_ in our school district. The district has developed procedures for selection materials, but realizes that not everyone will agree with every selection made.

To help you understand the selection process, we are sending copies of the district's:

1. Instructional goals and objectives
2. Materials Selection Policy
3. Policy statement : Procedure for handling challenged materials

If you are still concerned after you review this material, please complete the Request for Reconsideration of Material form and return it to me. You may be assured of prompt attention to our request. If I have not heard from you within two weeks, we will assume you no longer wish to file a formal complaint.

Sincerely,

Principal

## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

Format: Book \_\_\_\_ E-book \_\_\_\_ Periodical \_\_\_\_ CD-ROM \_\_\_\_ Video \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Publisher \_\_\_\_\_

Request Initiated by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant represents: \_\_\_\_ Self \_\_\_\_ Organization/Group

Name of Organization/Group \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did you read/hear/view the entire work? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

2. If not, which part did you read, hear, or view? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Specifically, what part of the information did you find objectionable, and why? (Please cite pages, frames, sections, CD-ROMS, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you like to recommend this work for another age group? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

5. If so, for what age group would you recommend this work? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How do you perceive students would be affected by exposure to this work?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What would you like for the school to do about this work?

\_\_\_\_ Withdraw it from all students.

\_\_\_\_ Withdraw it for reconsideration.

\_\_\_\_ Do not assign it to my child or allow my child access to this work.

\_\_\_\_ Place it on a closed shelf for special use under a specific teacher's guidance.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list and attach supporting evidence**

## **SAMPLE WEEDING POLICY**

Weeding is a process by which materials no longer useful are removed from the library collection, usually during inventory. However, weeding should be carried out continuously if the library collection is to be kept up to date. Types of materials which should be regularly weeded from the school library are:

1. Items in such poor physical condition that the readers cannot use them.
2. Materials whose leaves have become yellowed and brittle with age.
3. Sources which contain material that is outdated or no longer true. This applies particularly to materials in science, or social studies, especially about other lands and people. The copyright date is a great help in evaluating this type of materials, though not the only factor to be considered.
4. Books which have been replaced by new and revised editions.
5. Materials which are not suitable for the readers using the collection.
6. Items which are duplicated of books once popular, but seldom used.
7. Dates audiovisual materials and equipment.

Weeded materials should be completely removed so that they will not find their way back to the library. Old editions should be replaced by newer editions and discarded unless there is a special reason for keep the old one. Material unsuitable to the collection (both print and digital formats) may be offered to other areas of the school, other libraries in the school system, or to a public library.

### **Discard Materials Procedure**

1. Deselected items must be disposed of properly and removed from your shelf list, inventory and catalog, following the guidelines for disposal of obsolete textbooks.
2. Items may be donated (if the recipient is made fully aware of the reason for discarding) or sent for recycling.
3. The labels and all evidence of ownership must be removed before disposal takes place.
4. Buy a "Discard" stamp and stamp each item on the front and back inside cover.

## **SAMPLE GIFT OR DONATION POLICY**

When organizations and individual parties express interest in donating books, reference resources and other educational-related materials to a school library, the school librarian must review potential library donations using the following criteria:

1. Materials should be new or barely used, complete, and attractive.
2. Reference materials, including atlases, encyclopedia, subject specific multi-volume sets, and other nonfiction resources should be no more than five years old; science, medical, computer, and other resources in areas in which information quickly becomes outdated should be no more than three years old.
3. Fiction books, which are more than 10 years old, will not be accepted with the exception of books by well-known young adult authors and classics.
4. All materials including reference, fiction and nonfiction, and other materials should be on the reading level and an interest of students enrolled at the school.
5. Nonfiction books should not reflect outdated stereotypes of racial or cultural groups in either the text or the illustrations and should avoid oversimplification of complex issues and other distortions that would give readers erroneous or misleading information.
6. Textbooks, workbooks, standardized tests, most periodicals, pamphlets, and catalogs will not be accepted.