

Adoption of Instructional Materials

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the improvement and growth of the educational program of the schools. To this end, the curriculum shall be evaluated, developed and adopted on a continuing basis and in accordance with the district plan for curriculum growth. Instructional materials shall be selected from state approved materials in order to assist students in attaining content skills and knowledge.

All new courses or major modifications to existing courses must be approved by the Superintendent prior to implementation. The Superintendent, in turn, shall inform the Board before the new course or major revision to district adoptions is implemented.

District Curriculum Committee

A District Curriculum Committee (DCC) shall monitor procedures for the selection, adoption, use, and removal of the District's instructional materials. The Superintendent shall adopt regulations for the duties, composition, and selection of members for the DCC, including the selection of parent or citizen members.

Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

The Board is legally responsible for the selection and adoption of all instructional materials used in the district. Instructional materials shall be defined as all core curricular materials furnished by the district for student use and/or included on students' reading lists. The primary objective in selecting instructional materials is to implement, enrich and support the educational programs of the schools. All instructional materials shall be selected in conformance with:

- A. Applicable state and federal laws,
- B. State content standards,
- C. The goals and/or standards of the district, and
- D. Criteria established by the DCC

Criteria for Selection of Instructional Material

The DCC shall develop criteria for the selection of high quality materials including, but not limited to, those that accomplish the following:

- A. Enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied instructional needs, abilities, interests, and learning styles of the students served.
- B. Stimulate student growth in factual knowledge, logical reasoning, conceptual thinking, creativity, ethical standards and physical fitness.
- C. Provide multiple perspectives on various issues to aid students in developing skills of critical analysis and informed decision making.
- D. Develop an understanding of the ethnic, cultural, and occupational diversity of humankind.
- E. Provide models for the development of self-respect, ethnic pride, and appreciation of cultural differences.

F. Present current and historical concerns and contributions of both genders, as well as members of religious, ethnic and cultural groups.

G. Place principle above personal opinions and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality.

Organizations which provide instructional materials and/or aids must be examined to ensure the materials meet the criteria above. The curriculum committee shall review all materials or activities proposed by outside sources for student or staff use.

The responsibility for preparing student reading lists and examining, evaluating, and recommending all supplementary materials is delegated to the curriculum committee of the district. Textbooks shall be adopted by the Board prior to their use in schools with the exception of pilot programs. Pilot programs may be authorized by the Superintendent for no more than one school year prior to Board adoption. Materials approved for trial use shall be restricted to classes specified.

The Superintendent shall ensure a list of all textbooks used within the school curriculum is maintained and available for public review at the central office textbook warehouse.

Any major modifications to adopted materials must be approved by the Superintendent and the Curriculum Director before implementation. Fidelity will be the cornerstone of adopted materials. The Superintendent, in turn, shall inform the Board before any major revision is implemented. The Superintendent shall establish procedures for curriculum development which provide for the involvement of community representatives and staff members at appropriate times.

Challenges to Instructional Materials

The Superintendent shall adopt regulations establishing a process for citizens to challenge instructional materials, including a review process which provides for appeal to the Board of Directors.

Policy History:

Adopted on: May 13, 2008

Revised on: November 11, 2008 – Modified Policy Number to include in
Section 2000 Instruction