

Library Book Selection Guidelines

School Library Collections

The Library Media Program of the Educational Technology Department provides schools with funding and resources to promote meaningful reading experiences, support the teaching of state standards, and enrich student learning. School library media centers curate collections which provide for the needs and interests of students and staff, taking into account their diverse interests, age levels, ability levels, learning styles, and emotional and social development levels.

We reaffirm the American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#) and [interpretation for school libraries](#), which states:

The school library plays a unique role in promoting, protecting, and educating about intellectual freedom. It serves as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas and as a learning laboratory for students as they acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed in a pluralistic society. Although the educational level and program of the school necessarily shape the resources and services of a school library, the principles of the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights apply equally to all libraries, including school libraries. Under these principles, all students have equitable access to library facilities, resources, and instructional programs.

Criteria

School library staff will select resources according to the following criteria:

1. contribution and relevance to the state curriculum standards and goals of the school, based on knowledge of existing collection;
2. potential interest to students, including materials that reflect varied religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds;
3. accurate, current, reliable, and authoritative factual content;
4. timeliness and/or permanence;
5. readability and accessibility to intended audience;
6. artistic quality and literary style;
7. age appropriateness;
8. representation of opposing sides of controversial issues;
9. favorable reviews found in professional selection sources;
10. requests and recommendations of faculty and students;

11. variety of format, with efforts to incorporate emerging technologies;
12. value compatible with budget and/or need;
13. careful consideration to avoid personal bias and prejudice in selecting or not selecting materials.

Items that do not meet an acceptable combination of these criteria will not be purchased or otherwise added to the collection.

Donations

Any items donated or given to a school must also meet these criteria in order to be added to the school's collection. Community members wishing to donate library materials should contact a member of the district library media staff in the [Educational Technology Department](#) (Phone: 385-646-4110) rather than contacting individual schools.

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