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SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS, LIBRARY RESOURCES,  
AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

As the governing body of the school district, the Board of Education is legally responsible for the selection approval of all instructional materials used in the school district. As the policy-making body, the Board of Education, delegates authority to the professional staff for the selection of textbooks, library resources, and other instructional materials.

The Board accepts the following assumptions:

- a. The Board recognizes the student's right to study a controversial issue which has political, economic, or social significance.
- b. The Board defines high quality textbooks as those which: present the subject matter in the most effective manner consistent with the Board's philosophy of education; promote pride, confidence, and trust in democratic principles; strive for balanced presentation of controversial issues; avoids racist, religious, ethnic or sexist stereotypes.
- c. The Board recognizes the right of parents to request that their child not be given certain materials.
- d. The Board denies the right of any parent or group of parents to determine what materials may be used for pupils other than their own children.
- e. The right to read, like all rights guaranteed or implied within our constitutional tradition, can be used wisely or foolishly. In many ways, education is an effort to improve the quality of choices open to an individual. But to deny the freedom of choice in fear that it may be unwisely used is to destroy the freedom itself. The right of any individual to read whatever the individual wants to read is basic to a democratic society.

This right is based on an assumption that the educated and reading person possesses judgment and understanding and can be trusted with the determination of his own actions. In selecting books for reading by students the professional staff should consider the contribution which each work may make to the education of the reader, its aesthetic value, its honesty, its readability for a particular group of students, and its appeal to students.

Acceptance of these statements does not infringe on the Board's ultimate right to determine the most appropriate materials to be acquired for school use.

Legal Reference: Section 701