

## SELECTION AND CHALLENGES TO LIBRARY, MEDIA, AND OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

BP - 9010

To positively enhance the citizenry of a democratic society, students must be provided with opportunities and experiences which help develop critical reading and thinking skills in an atmosphere of free inquiry. Western Boone County Community School Corporation (WBOCCSC) media centers seek to provide for all students an optimum variety of materials with diversity of appeal responsive to the curricular goals, education, and enrichment needs of its students.

Therefore, materials will be chosen for value of interest and enlightenment of all students in the community. Materials will not be excluded because of race, nationality, political, or religious values of the writer or of its style and language. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the current international, national, and local problems and issues. Material will not be prescribed or removed from media center shelves because of partisan doctrinal approval or disapproval.

### I. Responsibility for Selection of Materials

1. The final decision on controversial reading material rests with the Board after careful examination of materials by professionally trained and certified staff employed by WBOCCSC.
2. No parent or group of parents has the right to determine the reading matter for students other than their own children.
3. The Board recognizes the right of an individual parent to request that his or her child not have to read given instructional materials, provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal.

### II. Criteria for Selection of Materials

Whereas every effort is made to ensure that materials selection is wide and deep, fair and unbiased, accommodating all levels of reading ability and maturity, the students using the school media centers can choose to read or not read certain materials.

1. Materials shall support and be consistent with the general education philosophy and goals of the school district, the schools, and the curriculum.
2. Criteria for materials selection shall include, but not be limited to, authenticity, authority, content, format, potential use, readability, scope, subject interest, technical qualities, treatment of the subject, and price.
3. Materials shall be appropriate for the age, emotional development, ability level, and social development of the students for whom the material are selected.
4. Materials should encourage growth in knowledge and develop literary, cultural and aesthetic appreciation, and ethical standards.
5. Materials shall be chosen which reflect the ideas and beliefs of varying religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups and their contribution to American and world heritage and culture, thereby enabling students to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgements.
6. Materials shall be selected for their strengths rather than rejected for their weaknesses.
7. Gifts will be acceptable when they meet the same standards as original purchases, require no special conditions, and may be disposed of when warranted.

### III. Procedure for Selection of Materials

1. In selecting materials for purchase, the media center specialist will evaluate the existing collection and curriculum needs and will consult reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared

- school media selection aids. Further, he/she will consult with professional staff, curriculum specialists, and subject area specialists when appropriate.
2. Recommendations for purchase will be solicited from faculty, administrators, and students.
  3. Selection is an on-going process and also includes the removal of materials no longer appropriate due to age, content, condition, or usage. Lost or worn materials still of educational value may be replaced.
  4. Selections will be submitted to the building principal for approval and processing.

#### IV. Procedure For Removal of Library, Media, and/or Other Supplemental Materials

Parents or guardians, having custody of any student enrolled in the school corporation or a community member who lives within the school corporation boundaries may request that the removal of library, media, and other supplemental instructional materials on the basis the materials are obscene or harmful to minors as defined in Indiana law according to the following procedures:

1. A person having a concern about the use of library, media, and/or other instructional materials should first discuss the concern with the school librarian.
2. If the individual is not satisfied after the discussion with the school librarian, the individual should contact the building principal to discuss the matter.
3. If the individual is not satisfied after talking with the building principal, the individual may further the inquiry for a removal of the material in question by completing a Request for Removal of Library, Media, and/or Other Supplemental Materials form available in any school office and submitting it to the building principal.
4. Upon receipt of the completed form, the building principal shall request a review of the challenged material by a review committee within fifteen working days. The challenged material shall remain in use during the review process.
5. The building principal shall appoint the review committee and shall include but is not limited to a media professional, a classroom teacher, and a parent. For materials at the middle or high school level, a student representative may also be appointed.
6. The review committee shall take the following steps after receiving the challenged materials:
  - a. Read, view, or listen to the material in its entirety.
  - b. Review the definition of obscene and harmful to minors as defined in the Indiana criminal code.
  - c. Judge the material as a whole and not in part in determining whether the material meets the definition of obscene and/or harmful to minors.
7. The review committee shall make a written determination as to whether the material is obscene and/or harmful to minors and should be removed from the school library. The review committee's written determination shall be given to the building principal, the superintendent, and the person who made the request to remove the materials.
8. The person requesting the removal of the materials has the right to appeal the review committee's decision to the school board. The appeal must be in writing to the superintendent within ten days of the receipt of the review committee's determination.
9. The Board shall determine based upon the findings of the review committee whether to retain or remove the challenged material at its next public meeting after receiving the appeal. The board may also consider other resources in making its determination.
10. Material which has undergone a challenge may not be re-challenged until one calendar year after which the final decision was made.

LEGAL REFERENCE: IC 20-26-5.5-1(a)  
IC 35-49-2-1  
IC 35-49-2-2

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