

Selection of Educational Materials

Section 1. General. The East Allen County School District is concerned with educating students so they will become informed and responsible citizens. To this end, East Allen County Schools asserts that the responsibility of the school is:

1. To provide a comprehensive collection of instructional materials selected in compliance with basic written selection principles and to provide maximum accessibility to these materials.
2. To provide materials that will support the curriculum, taking into consideration the individual's needs, and the varied interests, abilities, socio-economic backgrounds, and maturity levels of the students served.
3. To provide materials for teachers and students that will encourage growth in knowledge and that will develop literary, cultural and aesthetic appreciation, and ethical standards.
4. To provide materials which reflect the ideas and beliefs of religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups and their contribution to the American and world heritage and culture, thereby enabling students to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgments.
5. To provide qualified professional personnel to select and recommend educational materials that would serve teachers and students.
6. To provide materials that reflect the moral standards of the EACS community.

Section 2. Criteria for Selection of Educational Materials. The following principles in selection of educational material will apply:

1. Literary Quality
 - A. Literary quality is related to style of writing or the arrangement of words and sentences that best expresses the dominating theme. It includes sentence structure, dialogue and vocabulary. Literary quality is not affected by format or illustration.
 - B. Characterization is an aspect of literary quality. An effectively realized character acts and speaks in a way that is believable for that character.
 - C. Plot is another aspect of literary quality. The incidents of a story must be interrelated and carry the user along to its climax.

2. Appropriateness
 - A. Factors to be considered in assessing the appropriateness of educational materials are children's interests, the age level and/or maturity of children in relation to the material being considered, and the content, format and illustration. While the format and illustrations are not directly related to the elements considered under literary quality, they should complement the text as well as be evaluated on the basis of artistic standards.
3. Usefulness
 - A. An important aspect of usefulness is the purpose for using educational materials in relation to curriculum objectives.
 - B. Basic to the selection of any material is the suitability of the text; but by no means is this to be construed to mean controversial materials will not be used.
 - C. Accuracy is important in nonfiction and in fiction in regard to theme, setting, characters and incidents.
 - D. Authenticity is important in fiction and biography, especially in those educational materials with a historical background.
4. Breadth of Coverage
 - A. Educational materials may present problems of stereotyping with respect to sex and to race. Religion, politics, and questions of morality or patriotism are issues about which there are considerable differences of opinion. The importance of such materials may lie mainly, or only, in their historical viewpoint and should be presented as such to children who use them. Teachers and librarians should be aware of these considerations and should make every effort to provide materials which present differing points of view.
5. Special Needs of Children Within the School System
 - A. Frequently, educational materials that may be considered appropriate for children in one community, may be inappropriate in another community.
 - B. In some cases, the length of time an educational material is used may affect its appropriateness.
6. Suitability of the Materials Within the Framework of the Logical Development of Teaching Skills and Objectives

7. Technical Quality
 - A. The quality of the various production and manufacturing aspect of the medium, such as sound, photography, reproduction, editing, etc., should be considered.
 - B. The type of the medium must be considered, so that the particular quality of a work is accurately reflected in the medium in which that work is reproduced.
8. Local Moral Standards
 - A. Prohibit obscenity and pornography in any material as defined by the Federal Courts.
 - B. The materials shall not include sexually explicit content that falls outside the curriculum materials formally adopted according to Policy and Regulation 6161.1.

Educational materials meeting the above standards and principles will be selected.

Section 3. Challenged Materials. Occasional objections to a selection will be made by the public despite the care taken to select valuable materials for student and teacher use and the qualifications of persons who select the materials.

The principles of the freedom to know and the professional responsibility of the staff must be defended when a complaint is formally presented.

If a complaint is filed, the building principal or the Director of Secondary Curriculum or Director of Elementary Curriculum, whichever is appropriate, will initiate the following procedures:

1. Be courteous, but make no commitments
2. Request complainant to complete Form Ad-53, "Request for Reconsideration of an Instructional Material Acquisition"
3. Inform the Superintendent of Schools
4. Appoint a committee of three (3) faculty members and two (2) parents that will:
 - A. Examine the materials being challenged
 - B. Check general acceptance of the material
 - C. Carefully consider the validity of the objection based on the material as a whole and not on parts pulled out of context

- D. Prepare a written report and forward to the building principal or the Director of Secondary Curriculum or Director of Elementary Curriculum, whichever is appropriate.
- 5. Complete Form Ad-54, "Report on Reconsideration of an Instructional Material Acquisition". Send one copy to the complainant, one copy to the Superintendent, and file one copy in the school or the Instructional Systems Center where the complaint originated.
- 6. The decision of the committee may be appealed to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of School Trustees.