



# NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

Board of Education Policy 6-230

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## INSTRUCTION

### LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

The Library Resource Center shall serve as a multimedia center which shall provide instructional resources to students and professional staff.

The freedom of the faculty to select textbooks, library books, and other instructional materials is a professional privilege. Board of Education policy supports academic freedom as basic to both democracy and public education. The Board expresses good faith in the faculty's capacity to select instructional materials using professional judgment. All instructional materials shall be adopted consistent with provisions of The School Code of Illinois.

The Superintendent shall establish and maintain a process for the budgeting and selection of instructional materials. Instructional materials, including library books, will be selected on the basis of their merit as aids to instruction across all curricular areas, as judged by the Library Department faculty and approved by the department chair and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, in accordance with the following procedures and principles:

1. With respect to the selection of library materials, the Board accepts the definition of the school library's responsibility (as described in the "Library Bill of Rights" of the American Association of School Librarians):
  - a. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the pupils served.
  - b. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
  - c. To provide a background of information which will enable pupils to make intelligent judgments in their daily life.
  - d. To provide materials on opposing sides\* of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and critical thinking.

- e. To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups, and their contributions to our American heritage.
  - f. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.
2. With respect to the procedures of selection, the Superintendent or designee will ensure the following practices:
- a. Continuing consultation between and among librarians, department heads, the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction as curriculum chair, and key specialists of the teaching faculty.
  - b. Attendance by designated library staff members at all academic department meetings, to keep continuously informed of teaching aims and content.
  - c. Evaluation of instructional materials by both teachers and librarians to select supplementary reading.
  - d. Thorough examination and evaluation of every book or other instructional materials by a librarian, teacher, (or both) before it is added to the library.

As for adverse criticism of approved books and instructional materials, and petitions for censorship, removal or expurgation of content deemed by a critic or critics to be offensive on moral political, religious or other grounds, Board Policy 2-260 will be followed.

A list of library books and instructional materials, used by the District, shall be revised periodically under the direction of the Superintendent or designee and shall be made available to the Board of Education and professional staff as a reference.

*\* The presentation of a "side" of a controversial issue should be in the spirit and by the rules of responsible advocacy. We charge the faculty with the obligation to help our students identify arguments or preachments which are demonstrably unbalanced by bias, hate, calumny, distortion of facts, or ignorance of, or indifference to, the laws of evidence and the requirements of proof.*

**Legal Reference: 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(o)**

**Cross References: Policy 6-60, 6-80, 6-210, and 6-260**

**Adopted: 10/17/94**

**Amended: 8/23/04**

**Affirmed: 4/17/2006**

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