

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

Code **IJL** Issued **4/05**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision and the basic structure for the selection and adoption of library/media center materials.

The function of the school library is to support and enrich the instructional program of the school. The library must provide a broad range of materials with a diversity of viewpoints, abilities and interests.

The board has the legal responsibility for the purchase of all instructional materials. The selection and ordering of library books, audiovisual and other materials for the library media centers are the responsibility of the school library/media specialists in accordance with this adopted policy.

Library/Media specialists will identify, order and organize materials that will implement, enrich and support the educational program of the school district. Principals, teachers, supervisors and other school personnel will give suggestions, recommendations and other assistance.

The media specialist will evaluate the existing collection and consult reputable, unbiased professionally prepared selection aides such as the following.

- Children's Catalog
- List of Sources of Selection: Library Materials for South Carolina Elementary and Secondary Media Centers
- Elementary Library Collection
- Good Books for Children
- List of Books - S.C. Elementary Libraries
- School Library Journal
- The Horn Book
- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Materials selection criteria

The basic selection criterion is the appropriateness of the materials for use at the grade levels served. In addition, the media specialist will judge the materials using the following criteria.

- needs of the school and value to the collection
- validity, accuracy, objectivity, currency and appropriateness of text
- organization and presentation of contents
- clarity, adequacy and scope of text
- representatives of many viewpoints
- high artistic quality and/or literary style
- high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility
- reputation and significance of author and producer
- value commensurate with cost

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