

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy

Instructional Program

Series 6000

Selection of Curriculum Materials

Policy 6141.1

Date Adopted: April 19, 1983

Date Revised: December 17, 2015

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The purpose of this curriculum materials selection policy is:

- A. To provide a statement of philosophy and objectives for the guidance of those involved in the procedure for selection of curriculum materials.
- B. To define the roles of those who share in the responsibility for selection of curriculum materials.
- C. To outline the techniques for application of the cafeteria.
- D. To clarify the philosophy and procedures used in selecting and evaluating curriculum materials.
- E. To provide a procedure for consideration of objections to the use of particular materials in the educational program.

The Brick Township Board of Education, conscious of its responsibility to the community and its children, is deeply concerned with generating a genuine understanding of American freedom through the development of informed and responsible citizens. To this end, and in accordance with its legal responsibilities, the Brick Township Board of Education will strive:

- A. To provide material 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, literacy appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
- C. To provide a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
- D. To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.
- E. To provide materials representative of many religious, ethnic and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
- F. To place principles above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection of curriculum materials.

The responsibility for final approval and purchase of curriculum materials is legally vested in the Board of Education. Materials purchased or owned by teachers, and used in the classroom, are subject to all the conditions and guidelines set forth in this policy. The Board delegates to the staff the responsibility to select and recommend for purchase the curriculum materials to be used in the instructional program. In selecting and recommending the materials, the staff will take cognizance of the needs of the students and objectives of the program.

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In this endeavor the Board of Education encourages wide participation involving faculty, students, parents and members of the Board of Education. In this process of selection and recommendation of curriculum materials it shall be the responsibility of each principal to see that this procedure is implemented.

Criteria for Selection of Curriculum Materials

All materials shall have these elements of quality:

- A. Relevance to area of instruction
- B. Accuracy
- C. Authoritativeness
- D. Clarity of presentation

In order that each recommendation be a responsible selection, it should be based upon the following:

- A. Recommendation from one or more of the recognized professional media or approved lists, such as book selection aids, basic materials lists, current general lists, special bibliographies for reference materials and subject fields and book reviewing journals. No one source need determine the selection.
- B. Recommendation by a teacher, librarian or school administrator who has previewed the material.
- C. Recommendation based upon the basic attributes of truth and art. Factual accuracy, authoritativeness, balance and integrity, coupled with stimulating presentation, imagination, vision creativeness, style appropriate to the idea, vitality and distinction are eloquent testimonials to the validity of a recommendation.
- D. Recommendations for selection will reflect awareness of the grade level and interest at which the materials will be utilized and consonant with the needs of the curriculum and the interests of the teacher and students.
- E. Books and materials meeting the above standards and principles will be considered for selection. Books or materials of an obscene nature or those which rely unnecessarily upon a shock syndrome, or those advocating overthrow of the government of the United States by force or revolution shall not be recommended for purchase.

Specific factors influencing selection:

- A. Curriculum
- B. Special needs of individual schools
- C. Abilities and interests of the students
- D. Need to develop proper balance in the school offerings
- E. Size of budget

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Consideration of objections to materials in question will be given objectivity, unemotionally and as an important routine action. The process of consideration of objections will be guided by the best interests of the students, the school, the curriculum and the community. Since differences of opinion do exist in our society, the following procedure shall be observed to recognize those differences in an impartial and factual manner.

- A. A criticism of materials shall be presented in writing to the building principal, who will forward a copy to the Superintendent of Schools. The form "Citizens Request For Reconsideration of Materials" shall be used for this purpose.
- B. The material in question will be reviewed and discussed by the Curriculum Materials Review Committee, which will be convened by the Chairman of the Review Committee upon notification of a specific request for reconsideration of materials through the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.
- C. The decision of the Review Committee shall be reported in writing to the complainant and to the Superintendent of Schools.
- D. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Review Committee, he may appeal to the Board of Education through the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

Suggested membership in the Review Committee:

- Assistant Superintendents
- Principal of the school where complaint originated
- Subject Supervisor (if originating in grades 7-12)
- Teaching utilizing material
- Member of Board of Education
- 2 Students
- 2 P.T.A. Members
- 4 Lay Members of the Community
- Librarian
- B.T.E.A. Representative

Legal References

NJSA 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
18A:34-1 Textbooks; selection
18A:34-2 Care and keeping textbooks