

Instruction

Instructional Materials

All District classrooms and learning centers should be equipped with an evenly-proportioned, wide assortment of instructional materials, including textbooks, workbooks, audio-visual materials, and electronic materials. These materials should provide quality learning experiences for students and:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum;
2. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
3. Provide background information to enable students to make informed judgments and promote critical reading and thinking;
4. Depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society; and
5. Contribute to a sense of the worth of all people regardless of sex, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other differences that may exist.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide a list or description of textbooks and instructional materials used in the District to the Board. Anyone may inspect any textbook or instructional material.

Teachers are encouraged to use supplemental material only when it will enhance, or otherwise illustrate, the subjects being taught and to ensure it is age-appropriate. No R-rated movie shall be shown to students unless prior approval is received from the Superintendent or designee, and no movie rated NC-17 (no one 17 and under admitted) shall be shown under any circumstances. These restrictions apply to television programs and other media with equivalent ratings.

The Board of Education recognizes the need for students to have access to many different types of media as a part of their instruction. The Board also recognizes the responsibility of teachers and administrators to select materials for use in accord with current practices in education and to make them available in the schools. Several fundamental beliefs provide the foundation for the District 201 guidelines for the use of films in the classroom. It is, therefore, the policy of this District to require that films selected for use in our schools be chosen with relevance to the curriculum, with a high academic standard in mind, and with full consideration for appropriateness in relation to the students in the class.

The Board of Education has established the following procedures for the use of films in the classroom:

1. All films are to be previewed by the teacher who plans to show the film prior to the selection for use in a classroom. Any "R" rated film to be shown in the classroom by a particular department is to be approved by a committee consisting of the Building Principal, the department chairperson, and three teachers from within that department.
2. No "NC-17" or "X" rated films may be shown.
3. No film is to be shown to students which has an "R" rating unless educational value can be demonstrated, the appropriate department head has been notified, and prior written approval has been received from the Building Principal.
4. Parents/guardians shall be notified in writing in advance of showing of any "R" rated films, and upon request, be given an opportunity to view the film.
5. Films edited for television or educational use should be used if available. Care must be taken to meet all copyright laws. All films are to be edited of sexual nudity.

6. Parent/guardian and/or student requests to be excused from viewing a film on the basis of their beliefs will be approved. Alternative assignments may be made for students who are excused from viewing the film.

Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board for consideration and adoption all textbooks and instructional materials and shall include the following information: (1) title, publisher, copyright dates, number of copies desired, and cost; (2) any texts being replaced; and (3) rationale for recommendation. The School Code governs the adoption and purchase of textbooks and instructional materials.

All textbooks for the District shall be chosen by a committee of teachers from the department, with the approval of the department chairmen and the principals of each campus for recommended adoption by the Board of Education. Textbooks should be the same for East and West campuses unless special conditions make the selection of separate textbooks advisable. Textbooks should be used a minimum of three years.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.8, 5/10-20.9, and 5/28-19.1.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

ADOPTED: December 17, 2012