

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

The Governing Board recognizes that school library media centers play a vital role in education by providing access to a variety of informational resources. The Board desires to provide comprehensive library media centers with up-to-date books, reference materials and electronic information resources necessary to support a high-quality instructional program and enhance the inservice training of staff. The Board encourages classroom teachers and library media teachers to collaborate in developing resource-based learning activities that promote advanced thinking skills and enable students to become independent learners.

The school libraries shall be open for use by students and teachers during the school day.

The Board expects school library media centers to nurture intellectual growth by providing:

1. Materials that take into consideration students' varied interests, abilities, maturity levels and learning styles.
2. Materials that foster knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards.
3. Information that enables students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives and learn, with guidance, how to analyze and think critically about what they read.
4. Materials that realistically depict our pluralistic society and reflect the contributions of its various religious, ethnic and cultural groups.
5. Information to teachers and administrators concerning sources and availability of instructional materials that will aid in the development of school curriculum, and , in cooperation with classroom teachers, the development of instructional units and activities using library resources.
6. Assistance to teachers and students in the evaluation, selection, production and uses of instructional materials.
7. A collection of materials and resources that support the curriculum and are appropriate for user needs.
8. Assistance to teachers, administrators and other school staff members in becoming knowledgeable about appropriate uses of library media services, materials and equipment.

The Board endorses the School Library Bill of Rights, as drawn by the American Library Association, which details the responsibility of the school library:

1. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.
2. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
3. To provide a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily life.

4. To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking.
5. To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic and cultural groups, and their contributions to our American heritage.
6. 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.

SCHOOL LIBRARY PLAN

The school library plan shall describe the district's vision and goals for the district's libraries, progress toward previously established goals, and action steps including how the funds will be distributed. As appropriate, the plan may also address staffing, facilities, selection procedures, and prioritization of needs or other related matters.

To establish eligibility for funds to update and maintain school library media center services and materials, the Board encourages staff members at each school to develop for Board approval a school library improvement plan that meets the requirements of the California Public School Library Protection Act. Such plans shall provide for the selection and procurement of library materials and technology-based materials that support the curriculum, improve teaching strategies, and implement curriculum objectives in each subject area.

SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Responsibility for the selection of library materials is delegated to the professional library staff through the principal. School librarians shall evaluate materials in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation, and using professional selection aids and standards. The selection process shall invite recommendations from administrators, teachers, other staff, parents/ guardians and students as appropriate.

Library materials should be continually reevaluated in relation to evolving curricula, new formats of materials, new instructional methods, and the needs of students and teachers. Materials that contain obsolete subject matter or are no longer appropriate shall be removed, and lost or worn materials may be replaced if possible.

Complaints regarding the appropriateness of library materials shall be addressed using the district's procedures for complaints regarding instructional materials.

FEES

Students shall be allowed to borrow school library materials at no charge for use in the library and classrooms as well as out of school.

To encourage students to return materials in a timely manner, a nominal fee may be charged for the late return of materials.

The district shall, on or before August 31 each year, report to the California Department of Education on the condition of school libraries for the preceding year ending June 30.

Legal Reference:

California Education Code

18100-18172	School libraries
18175-18179	California public school library protection act
18180-18184	California Public School Library Act of 1998
19336	Recommended books, Reading Initiative Program