

# **Brockton Public Schools School Committee Policy**

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## **LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTIONS**

The selection of *Instruction Resource Center* (IRC) materials both print and non-print, shall be in accordance with the philosophy expressed in the American Association of School Libraries' School Library Bill of Rights, approved in 1969, by the American Association of School Librarians Board of Directors, which states:

“The American Association of School Librarians reaffirms its belief in the “Library Bill of Rights” of the American Library Association. Media personnel are concerned with generating understanding of American freedoms through the development of informed and responsible citizens. To this end the American Association of School Librarians asserts that the responsibility of the school library media center is:

“To provide a comprehensive collection of instructional materials selected in compliance with basic written selection principles, and to provide maximum accessibility to these materials;

“To provide materials that will support the curriculum, taking into consideration the individual’s needs, and the varied interests, abilities socioeconomic backgrounds, and maturity levels of the student served;

“To provide materials for teachers and students that will encourage growth in knowledge, and that will develop literary, cultural and aesthetic appreciation, and ethical standards;

“To provide materials which reflect the ideas and beliefs of religious, social, political, historical and ethnic groups and their contribution to the American and world heritage and culture, thereby enabling students to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgments;

“To provide a written statement, approved by the local boards of education, of the procedures for meeting the challenge of censorship of materials in school library media centers; and

“To provide qualified personnel to serve teachers and students.”

The legal responsibility for materials in the schools IRC’s rests with the School Committee. However, responsibility for materials selection is delegated to professionally trained IRC personnel who are familiar with courses of study, methods of teaching and the individual differences of pupils in the schools for which the materials are provided. Selection is to be in accordance with the statement of specific policy below.

Instructional materials selection shall be a cooperative, continuing process. Administrators, teachers and students are encouraged to suggest materials to be added to the collections.

The following factors are important considerations during the selection process.

1. literary and artistic merit
2. relevance to curriculum
3. accuracy and currency
4. suitability for age and learning levels
5. expressed student interests

6. critical acceptance

Professionally prepared, standard selection tools will be used as guides. Some, but not all, are listed here:

1. Standard Catalog for High School Libraries
2. Basic Book Collections for High Schools
3. Basic Book Collections for Junior High Schools
4. Library Journal
5. Reference Services Review
6. Horn Book Magazine
7. Booklist and Subscription Book Bulletins
8. Wisdom Library Bulletin
9. School Library Journal
10. Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
11. New York Times Book Reviews
12. Elementary School Library Collection
13. Wilson Children's Catalogue
14. Kirkus Reviews

Gifts to school IRC's should be accepted or rejected in accordance with the selection guidelines previously outlined.

The decision to accept gifts will be the joint responsibility of the school principal, the school librarian and the Coordinator of Library and Media Services.