

**WINNER SCHOOL DISTRICT 59-2  
OFFICIAL SCHOOL BOARD POLICY**



**POLICIES FOR SELECTION OF LIBRARY BOOKS AND MATERIALS**

The Board endorses the School Library Bill of Rights, as adopted by the American Library Association. In selecting library materials, the District will:

1. Provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.
2. Provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, and aesthetic values on ethical standards.
3. To provide a background of information which will enable pupils to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
4. Provide materials representing different viewpoints of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking.
5. Provide diversity in materials, representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
6. 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.

The District will not select obscene library matter or materials. For the purposes of this policy, obscene matter or materials as defined in SD Codified Law 22-24-27 (11):

- The dominant theme of which, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
- Which is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sado-masochistic abuse or sexual conduct; and
- Lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.”

The Winner Board of Education is legally responsible for all matters relating to the operation of Winner School. Initial purchase suggestions for library materials may come from all personnel—teachers, coordinators, administrators. Students will also be encouraged to make suggestions. The librarian will be responsible for evaluation and recommendation of all library materials to be included in the school library. The needs of the individual school are based on knowledge of the curriculum and of the existing collection are given first consideration. Lost and worn materials with continuing educational value will be replaced. Items obsolete, outdated, or irrelevant will be removed.

Materials for purchase are considered on the basis of:

- Accuracy,
- Authoritativeness,
- Readability
- Educational significance,
- Need and value of the collection,
- Requests from faculty and students are given consideration.

In the selection of materials for purchase, the media specialist evaluates the existing collection and consults reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared selection aides: specialists from all departments and/or all grade levels; and if needed the media committee.

Gifted materials are judged by the basic selection standards and are accepted or rejected by these standards.

Multiple items of outstanding and much in demand media are purchases as needed.

Worn or missing standard items are replaced periodically.

Out of date or no longer useful materials are withdrawn from the collection.

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The media committee is to serve in an advisory capacity subject to board approval, in selection of books and materials and review of challenged books and materials.

The composition of the media committee for each school will be as follows:

- 1 librarian
- 2 staff members
- 3 patrons of the school district (1 minority)
- 1 principal

Complaints about library books will be handled in line with Board policy on complaints about instructional materials. Challenges may come from a parent/guardian, student, school district resident, or district employee. The challenged material will continue to be used during the reconsideration process, unless the Superintendent suspends its use. If a complaint is made, the procedures are as follows:

Be courteous, but make no commitments.

Invite the complainant to file his objections in writing and offer to send him a prepared questionnaire so that they may submit a formal complaint to the media committee

Inform the principal, superintendent and the media supervisor.

The media committee will:

- a. Read and examine materials referred to them;
- b. Weigh values and faults against each other and form opinions based on the materials as a whole and not on passages pulled out of context;
- c. Meet to discuss the materials and to prepare a report on it;
- d. Withdraw materials if that is the decision of the media committee;
- e. File a copy of the report in the school and administrative offices;
- f. Notify the complainant.

Decisions on reconsidered materials will be binding for three (3) years before new requests for reconsideration of those items will be entertained. An individual may file no more than three (3) challenges at one time. No new challenges may be filed until the former set are settled.

Three (3) years must pass before material that has been censored or banned can be reinstated or considered for reinstatement. After that time, the board may entertain a request by a parent/guardian, student, school district resident, librarian or other district employee to consider reinstatement of the materials previously banned or censored.

### APPEALS PROCESS:

The Media Committee's decision may be appealed by submitting a written request to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall review the Media Committee's determination. The Superintendent shall have the right to uphold or overturn the Media Committee's decision. Either the complainant or the Media Committee shall have the right to appeal the decision to the School Board. If such further appeal is desired, a hearing shall be held before the School Board at the next regular meeting of the School Board after members of the School Board have had the opportunity to read or view the challenged materials. Both the complainant and the representative (s) of the Media Committee will have the opportunity to present testimony on the matter.

Within ten (10) days following the hearing before the School Board, a written determination by the School Board shall be given to the complainant. Decisions by the School Board will be binding unless the decision of the School Board is modified by judicial review.