

## Missoula County Public Schools

### Instruction 2310

#### Selection of Library Media Materials

In order to educate each student to the fullest, a wide variety of materials and technology must be provided to meet curriculum needs and the greatest possible diversity of student interest.

The purpose of this policy is to guide library media specialists in the selection of materials which insure a quality collection. The intent is to inform school personnel and the community of the policy and mission upon which these selections are made and to designate persons responsible for selection.

The Board, acting through the Superintendent, thereby delegates the authority for the selection of library materials to the principal in each of the schools. The Principal further delegates that authority to the library media specialist in the school.

The library media center and specialists within each school work toward the common goal of curriculum implementation, support and enhancement of the educational program. Library media services reflect the goals and objectives of our schools and district.

The selection process will be based on the following objectives:

- To provide materials which support the curriculum and learning
- To provide equitable access to a variety of information materials, taking into consideration individual needs, interests, abilities, diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, and maturity levels of the students served
- To provide materials which reflect many sides of issues, beliefs, and ideas for the purpose of guiding students in becoming critical thinkers who can understand varying perspectives
- To develop a collection of popular print/non-print materials of high interest that draws students to reading for recreational and personal interest as well as learning)

Every student has the right to a variety of learning materials to broaden interests and experiences and to stimulate mental growth. The well-administered school library media center is the most effective and economical way to provide each student with exploratory experiences, reading guidance, instruction in the use of a variety of materials and curriculum enrichment.

The provision of a wide variety of library materials at all reading levels supports the District's basic principle that the school in a free society assists all students to develop their talents fully so that they become capable of contributing to the further good of that society.

In support of these objectives, the Board reaffirms the principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights, endorsed by the American Association of School Librarians in 1996.

Legal reference:

§ 20-4-402(5), MCA Duties of district superintendent or high school principal

§ 20-7-203, MCA Trustees' policies for school library

§ 20-7-204, MCA School library book selection

Policy History:

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