



Atlantic Community High School

FY24 Collection Development Policy

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Certified Educational Media Specialist

**Atlantic Community High School
FY24 Collection Development Policy**

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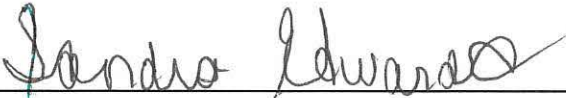
Principal Signature: 

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Purpose of Collection Development Policy

SDPBC Policy 8.12 (6.a) stipulates “Each school shall, in conjunction with the “Library Bill of Rights” of the American Library Association (ALA) and District policy, establish procedures for the evaluation, selection, management and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this policy and Policy 8.1205 and shall record such in the school’s collection development policy.” (Appendix A).

This collection development policy is a statement of the principles and guidelines used by the library in its selection, acquisition, evaluation, deselection, and maintenance of materials. It will be used to communicate the library’s policies to faculty, students, staff, and other stakeholders of our school’s community. It is understood that this document is fluid and changes in the curriculum, demographics, information needs, or programs of the school will mandate updates to the collection and its governing policies.

The acquisition and maintenance of materials collection is a primary function of the library media staff, primarily being the librarian, since the media clerk is used for many other roles within the school. Collection development and management refers to the process of building and maintaining the library’s entire materials collection, in print, non-print, audio visual and electronic formats so that they are available to every student at the time of need to support and enrich the student’s educational experience.

The collection development process includes the formulation of policy and procedures, budget, allocations, needs assessment, selection, collection maintenance and evaluation, deselection and resource sharing.

The primary goal of the library’s collection development efforts is to build a current collection that supports the needs of the school community and maintains the boundaries for size, average age, and access. This goal supports the information needs of students as defined by the mission and goals of the:

- School District of Palm Beach County;
- ALA/AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner;
- Partnership for 21st Century Skills; and
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) National Education Technology Standards (NETS)

The library recognizes its responsibility to respond to the reading (for curriculum and pleasure), reference, and research needs of the student body and faculty in an age of information abundance. The electronic catalog of resources for the school and district is maintained by the Department of K-12 Instructional Materials and Library Media Services and is available at all times to students, faculty, and parents.

The library is expected to be open every day that students and/or faculty are in attendance, to the extent the librarian can control such matters. In regards to testing, the library will be allowed to continue access for students and staff at the discretion of school administration. When the facility cannot meet information needs, research and reference materials will still be available at all

times, in all locations, through the district-wide electronic subscription databases. Interlibrary loan is available through district membership.

Background Statement & School Community

The users of ACHS library come from grades nine (9) through twelve (12) in addition to the faculty, staff, and parents of that community of users.

According to the district's Gold Report summary dated October 2022, ACHS has a population of 1882 students. This is a unique and culturally diverse population attending our school for a variety of programs including Army JROTC Academy, Construction Academy, Criminal Justice Academy, Drafting Academy, Early Childhood Teacher Education Academy, International Baccalaureate Diploma, Photography Academy, Sports Management & Recreation Academy and Video Production Academy. Many students have a first language other than English, and those languages include Haitian Creole, Spanish, Portuguese, Bengali, Filipino, Serbian, Polish, Hindi, Albanian, French, and more.

Demographic Information:

- Black – 65%
- White – 12%
- Hispanic – 15%
- Asian – 5%
- Mixed Race/Other – 2%
- Free/Reduced Lunch – 61%
- ESE – 14%
- ELL – 12%

Mission Statement

Atlantic Community High School exists to serve the educational needs of the community and its students. Our mission is to enable all students to become positive and productive members of society. To achieve this mission, we must address many facets of the “whole student,” intellectually, socially, morally, physically and aesthetically. The overall climate must encourage students to reach their potential, “to be the best they can be.” This climate must encourage and reward achievement, self-discipline, tolerance, leadership and service to others.

Media Center Mission Statement

The library media center is dedicated to designing and maintaining a library media program that supports, complements, and expands the instructional program of the Atlantic Community High School while cultivating users who are information literate, readers for pleasure, and life-long learners. To this end, the library media center will

- Provide free and open access to all information resources for all members of the school community;
- Provide and promote extensive use of resources in multiple formats that are designed to meet the varying needs of all learners in all aspects of the curriculum;

- Provide a learning environment which promotes inquiry;
- Stimulate intellectual curiosity;
- Encourage pleasure reading through an inclusive collection;
- Develop diverse interests for the enjoyment of lifelong learning; and
- Provide and promote instruction to prepare students to become independent users of libraries and information resources.

Responsibility for Collection Management & Development

The primary goal of the library's collection development efforts is to build a collection that supports the needs of the school community while also positively representing all stakeholders. Acquisition and maintenance of the collection is critical. This process includes the formulation of policies and procedures, budget allocations, needs assessment, selection criteria, collection maintenance and evaluation, and resource management.

The library has a responsibility to respond to the needs of the student body and faculty. The librarian serves as the liaison between the library media center and all departments as well as parents and students and stakeholders at large. The librarian prioritizes requests made by all stakeholders for input on future purchases, while conforming to selection policies, and strives to maintain a balance in the library collection to ensure that both instructional and recreational needs are met.

The librarian strives to maintain a collection as diverse as the population it serves. Material selection seeks to maintain a balanced representation of a variety of opinions, theories, ideologies, cultures, issues, and controversial topics, so that patrons may find materials that reflect their worldviews while also having the opportunity to explore other worldviews. Additionally, we're looking for more than representation—we need healthy representation that affirms our teens' experiences and helps people outside that group to question and challenge harmful stereotypes. ([Karen Jensen, SLJ](#))

Library Program

Foremost among national standards for school library media center programs is the need to work collaboratively with teachers to develop meaningful literacy information lesson plans that integrate into classroom learning. At ACHS, the librarian collaborates with teachers from all disciplines to increase student achievement by supplementing existing curriculum in accordance with course standards.

The library is open each day that students are in attendance to ensure equitable access for all students to library media resources. The school administration and faculty are aware that recent research shows improvement in student learning gains when the library media center is available to the student at the point of need. At ACHS, the library is open from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except when closed by administration (usually for testing). When accommodations can be made, library hours are extended after school until 4:50 PM. Students are welcome without a pass before and after school, but must have a pass from a teacher during class periods or during lunch.

In addition to other services, the library staff:

- Makes IDs for all new students and replaces IDs as needed;
- Laminates items for teachers;
- Makes poster-sized prints;
- Make copies and color prints;
- Circulates chromebooks and laptops;
- Schedules lab usage;
- Supervises groups of students as needed.

The Media Center participates in The Florida Teens Read program which can be accessed at <http://www.floridamedia.org/florida-teens-read.html>.

The library participates in the SDPBC online Battle of the Books which is held each year. Students at ACHS participate by reading at least 3 of the 15 books nominated for Florida Teens Read. The students form groups which practice at times best for students and teachers.

High schools have the option of imposing late fines as students mature and prepare for similar responsibility and experiences in public libraries and university settings; however, in an effort to encourage book checkout, ACHS does not charge late fees, with the exception of chromebook circulations, as the demand for these devices is higher than the available supply. Additionally, ACHS will no longer charge fees for damaged or lost materials, except in the case of circulating devices. If a student leaves ACHS with an outstanding fine, that fine will be transferred through SIS. If a student graduates without paying a fine, their fine will be deleted.

Fines assessed from previous schools or ACHS in other departments (including textbook fines) will not prevent any type of circulation from the library.

Goals and Objectives

- Goal 1: Increase circulation of previously uncirculated items.
 - create targeted displays that feature only previously uncirculated items
 - promote uncirculated items to teachers in relation to curriculum being taught
 - book talk titles individually with students, especially prominent readers
- Goal 2 : Decrease old titles (22%) in the collection and increase diverse titles (50%) and new titles (32%)
 - purchase new diverse titles
 - weed out older, non-circulating, un-diverse titles
- Goal 3 : increase age (newer) and size (30 books) of test prep section
 - purchase new test prep books
 - weed out older test prep books
 - offer a variety of producers and types of test prep books (in addition to SAT and ACT, books on ASVAB, AP tests, SAT subject tests)

Budget and Funding

The library is given a school-based operating budget at the beginning of every school year, receives state monies, and retains an internal account used when other funding is exhausted. The library expects the school-based operating budget to be consistent with years past, and has created the projections below based upon past data. The budget for the 2023 - 2024 school year is expected to be similar to the 2022-2023.

2023-2024 (FY24) projected budget amounts

School Based Operating Budget	FY23 Budget	FY24 Projected Budget
Account 55110 - Media Supplies	\$871	\$871
Account 553420 - Media Subscriptions	\$871	\$871
Account 561100 - Media Books	\$3193	\$3193
Media Center Internal Account - 51700.0	\$1050	\$1050
Account 556110 (program 3070) - Media Books	\$2647	\$2647
Program 8430 - Destiny	Selection of materials valued around \$1100	Selection of materials valued around \$1100
District Provided LEAD money	\$320	\$320

Purchasing Plan 2023-2024

Approximate Purchasing Plan	
Purpose	Amount
FTR titles	\$800
books/eBooks	\$5500
supplies/ID supplies	\$1000
BAM field trip	\$200
Author visits	\$1800
FAME membership	\$75
STEAM	\$700
Total:	\$10075

Scope of the Collection

The entire print collection at ACHS is currently arranged by genre, augmented with narrative nonfiction, foreign language titles, and a collection of test prep books. Graphic novels inhabit their own space within the library. Printed nonfiction titles have been removed with the exception of graphic novels, testing materials, and books that read like fiction (narrative nonfiction). The library maintains its eBook collection through the MackinVIA platform. Nonfiction materials are used electronically via additional resources provided by district-wide subscriptions to electronic information databases, which are available to students 24/7, IB databases maintained by the IB department, and curricular supplemental programs. The district-wide subscriptions also include a collection of eBooks. Materials support both curriculum and pleasure reading as per School Board Policy 8.12 (Appendix C).

Through affiliation with the public library system, the library is able to extend its collection to provide any major resource needed by a patron. Additionally, students, faculty, and administrators can access materials through interlibrary loan within the school district.

Collection Development

Collection Development is the process of maintaining a quality library media collection that serves both the academic and recreational needs of its patrons while confined to a set budget. The librarian leads this charge while valuing the input of all stakeholders, including students, teachers, administration, and parents.

Selection and Evaluation Criteria

The librarian, a certified educational media specialist, follows the guidelines of the School District of Palm Beach County, which in turn are governed by the Department of Education of the State of Florida, in implementing selection and evaluation measures.

Selection and evaluation policies follow Board Policy 8.12 (Appendix C). The librarian primarily uses reviews in Mackin to ensure all selected materials have at least two reputable reviews. Materials will be age appropriate for grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and will not contain pornography or critical race theory materials, following Fla Stat. 847.012. Other considerations are listed below (5 h). The collection is searchable by both title and author using the Destiny Catalog platform.

District-Wide Procedures for Selecting and Developing Library Collections

Who Makes the Selection

1. Each book made available to students through this School District's library media centers must be selected by a school district employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate, regardless of whether the book is purchased, donated, or otherwise made available to students.
2. In HereFurther, employees holding a valid educational media specialist certificate must also have completed the required Florida Department of Education training once it is available and by law must be developed by January 1, 2023.
3. In addition, the person selecting the books is employed at that school location or if a qualified person is not employed at the school, by another District employee with these qualifications.
4. For resources needing additional review by District Library Media Services, school-based certified library media specialists or principal designee will use PBSO 2671 to solicit additional input.
5. Consultation with stakeholders is required which is accomplished by the following:
 - a. Any community stakeholders may provide consultation on selections via the list of LMS Selections for the current school year at Active Book Orders.
 - b. On the date of the requested purchase or acceptance of library media center materials, the District will provide an email or text notice to current members of the Board's Academic Advisory Committee (Policy 1.097) that there are new materials under consideration, the link to find the list of materials, and the deadline(s) for submitting questions or comments.
 - c. Stakeholders with questions or concerns are directed to the following email address: librarymediaservices@palmbeachschools.org, for sending their feedback to be reviewed by the District Library Media Services for consideration.
 - d. Selections may be purchased or accepted 72 hours after posting for book fair materials and two weeks after posting for all other purchases or donations.

Criteria for Selection

1. All book selections must meet these criteria:

- a. Free of pornography and material prohibited under Florida Statute 847.012 [harmful to minors].
 - b. Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.
 - c. The content is to be appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used or made available. The District shall rely on any State Board of Education Rules, if they exist, to determine what is age appropriate.
2. In developing library media center collections consultation of reputable, professionally recognized reviewing periodicals is required, if available, after a documented diligent search.
3. These periodicals are print or non-print media including video footage that have been favorably reviewed by two or more professional sources, if available, after a documented diligent search, such as a School Library Journal, Horn Book, Booklist, Association for Library Service to Children, Kirkus, Young Adult Library Services Association, and/or Children's Catalog.
4. Library media center collections will be based on reader interest, support of state academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty.
5. Subject to the required statutory criteria stated above, additional selection criteria apply:
- a. A choice of materials that support the instructional program and promote reading shall be available to students and professional staff to allow for varying achievement levels, interests, and teaching/learning styles. Each school shall, in conjunction with the "Library Bill of Rights" (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>) of the American Library Association ("ALA"), State Statute, and District policy, establish procedures for the evaluation, selection, management, and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this policy and Policy 8.1205 and shall record such in the school's collection development plan.
 - b. The "Library Bill of Rights" referenced herein is to be used as a suggested guideline. To the extent that there are inconsistencies between the guidelines in the "Library Bill of Rights" and State Statute, or District policy, State Statute and District policy shall take precedence and shall govern the selection, retention and disposition criteria of library media materials for library media centers and classrooms.
 - c. Selection of materials shall also be consistent with the provisions in the School Board's collective bargaining agreement with CTA relating to academic freedom and responsibilities--Article II, Section K--to the extent those provisions are applicable.
 - d. Moreover, consistent with Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2) (a) 2, library media materials must be suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.
 - e. Any library media material containing pornography or otherwise prohibited by Fla Stat. § 847.012 as harmful to minors may not be used or made available within any public school.
 - f. The materials selected for schools are intended to support instruction, promote reading, further the pursuit of knowledge through research and exploration, and provide information literacy experiences of educational significance for class groups, individual students, teachers and administrators. Within budgetary constraints, the intent is to provide an adequate number and range of library media materials and resources in a variety of formats that are appropriate, timely, and essential to the attainment of specified educational objectives subject to District policy. Library media materials are to represent the diverse cultures,

ethnic groups, languages and religious beliefs of the community and that are free of bias, stereotypes, distortions, and prejudices.

- g. Within budgetary constraints, collections shall contain a comprehensive collection of materials and equipment, in a variety of media formats that are accessible to students during the school day, to:
 - i. Promote the development of lifelong reading habits and information literacy skills in students;
 - ii. Provide a broad background of information resources in areas of knowledge;
 - iii. Support the general educational goals of the District and the objectives of specific courses, including materials that represent diverse points of view in order that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical analysis of media and intellectual integrity in forming judgments;
 - iv. Meet the personal needs and interests of students, including materials that: nurture the development of recreational reading/listening/ viewing, cultural appreciation, and aesthetic values; represent the many religious, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groups in our society and reflect their contributions to the heritage and culture of our civilization; foster respect for the diverse roles available to women and men in today's society; and provide access to materials in heritage language as stipulated by the META agreement.
 - v. Support the professional needs of teachers and administrators; and
 - vi. Introduce new instructional technologies into the learning environment.
- h. Other criteria to consider in the selection process include:
 - i. EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. -- Material is valuable to an individual course of study or to the library media collection; the degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction.
 - ii. APPROPRIATENESS. -- Material is geared to the age, maturity, diverse interests, and learning levels of students for whom it is intended. Reading levels and Lexiles are considered to provide a range of material that challenges the student and guides their selection process.
 - iii. ACCURACY. -- Nonfiction information is correct, recent, and objective.
 - iv. LITERARY MERIT. -- Fiction that has a noteworthy plot, setting, characterization, style and theme.
 - v. SCOPE. -- Content is covered adequately to achieve its intended purpose.
 - vi. AUTHORITY. -- The author, editor, or producer has a superior reputation for producing materials of this nature.
 - vii. SPECIAL FEATURES. -- The item has maps, charts, graphs, glossaries, and/or other learning aids that support the content, are unique or are valuable.
 - viii. TRANSLATION INTEGRITY. -- Material translated from one language to another maintains the stylistic characteristics of the original. ARRANGEMENT. -- Concepts are presented in a logical sequence and in a way that assures learning.
 - ix. TREATMENT. -- Typeset, visuals, style, and/or medium captures and holds the student's attention.
 - x. TECHNICAL QUALITY. -- Sound is clear and audible; visuals project clearly.
 - xi. AESTHETIC QUALITY. -- Material is superior to similar items in

attractiveness and presentation of content.

- xii. POTENTIAL DEMAND. -- Item has particular timeliness or popular appeal.
- xiv. DURABILITY. -- Material has the potential for frequent use or is of a nature that it will be considered consumable.
- xv. COPYRIGHT. -- Library media materials used in a school shall be procured and used in accordance with federal, state and District copyright laws, rules, and policies as referenced in School Board Policy 8.121.
- xvi. GRAPHIC NOVELS AND PERIODICALS. -- In addition to the above criteria, all pictures are to be reviewed for appropriateness prior to placing the graphic novel or periodicals into circulation.

Removal of Materials












1. Library Media Materials are subject to regular removal or discontinuance of books based on, at a minimum, physical condition, rate of recent circulation, alignment to state academic standards and relevance to curriculum, out-of-date content, and required removal pursuant to School Board Policy 8.1205 Objection Procedures for Library Media Materials.
2. In addition to regular review, removal, or discontinuance by a school library media specialist, the Superintendent or designee, even without an Objection or challenge, has the authority to remove library media materials based on statutory considerations. The basis for the removal shall be documented.
3. The District will restrict access to school library media and reading list materials from students in grade Kindergarten through Grade Three if such materials instruct on sexual orientation or gender identity because HB 1557 (2022) prohibits such instruction.

Oversight for Compliance

1. School principals are responsible for overseeing compliance with school district procedures for selecting school library media center materials at the school to which they are assigned.
2. Support toward compliance is available when the assigned school library media specialist(s) attend professional development/training hosted by the District Library Media Services.
3. Annually, the District requires using the selection criteria and the removal criteria referenced in these procedures to have library media specialists evaluate their collection in order to write a School Collection Development Plan to enhance their individual library programs that align to the District required components. They will share that plan with both their principal and District Library Media Services. Once the plan is approved, the school will post the school's plan on the school website. District Library Media Services will offer annual training on this process.
4. The School Collection Development Plan will include: School Mission Statement, Library Mission Statement, Purpose of the Collection Development Plan, School Community Description, Description of Your Library Program, Budget and Funding, Scope of Collection, Collection Development, Gifts and Donations, Collection Maintenance, Challenged Materials, and Goals and Objectives.

Collection Analysis

The collection is developed for and influenced by students, their interests, academic needs and alignment to the curriculum. The data below is a snapshot of the collection based on a Titlewise Analysis.

			
5702 Items in the Collection	2.3 Items per Student	73% Fiction Titles in the Collection	24% Percent of nonfiction in the collection
Library media resources are curated to include both recently published works and classics that both rightfully impact the average age of the collection.			
	2013 Average Age of the Collection	22% Aged Titles	32% Newer than 5 Years
Library media resources should be representative of the school.		Social-Emotional Learning (SLL) library media resources can contribute to character development.	
			
50% Representative Titles in Collection	2014 Representative Titles Average Age	57% SLL Titles in Collection	2014 SLL Titles Average Age

Collection Analysis By Category

The information collected in this section provides a detailed look at the current library collection by classification and genre. The information was gathered from Follett Destiny, the library management system, and Titlewave, the vendor's ordering and analysis tool.

Section	# of Titles	Average Age (year)
Computer Science, Information & General Works	3	2011
Philosophy & Psychology	19	2013
Religion	3	2007
Social Sciences	133	2016
Language	32	2000
Science	18	2012
Technology	11	2013
Arts & Recreation	1032	2011
Literature	82	2007
History & Geography	58	2012
Biography	128	2011
Easy	2	2020
General Fiction	4181	2014
Graphic Novels	1104	2004

Gifts and Donations

Any books gifted or donated to the school must meet the same selection criteria as all other materials. No materials will be added to the collection if they are out-of-date or age-inappropriate material simply because they were donated. All gifts and donations must follow the same processes as new book orders.

Collection Maintenance

The Library Media Specialist is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of a quality collection which includes the procurement of new materials and discarding of ineffective items as delineated above.

Inventory and weeding (deselection) of materials and resources are essential for a healthy library media collection. Inventory will be performed on a three-year rotation as per Board Policy 8.12 (Appendix C), though oftentimes the entire collection can be inventoried each year.

Weeding is a form of quality control of the collection in which outdated, inaccurate and worn-out materials and equipment are discarded from the electronic catalog and physically removed from the collection.

Materials that are weeded can be disposed of in different ways, though measures will be taken to ensure misinformation from outdated materials is not circulated, and books will not merely be thrown away.

- a. Recycling the materials for various instructional activities
- b. Giving them to students for individual use (fiction book exchange, or as reward)
- c. Shipping off to LMS warehouse for proper disposal

Strategic Focus – Weeding and Acquisitions

School Year	Strategic Focus
2023-2024	Selection Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FTR titles for 2023-2024 ● Series fill needs - manga ● Test prep titles
	Inventory/ Weeding Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weed Narrative Nonfiction, manga, and Test Prep sections ● Inventory Narrative Nonfiction, Test Prep, and Florida Teens Read sections
2024-2025	Selection Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FTR titles for 2024-2025 ● Series fill needs ● Foreign language titles and foreign language dictionaries
	Inventory/ Weeding Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weed Graphic Novels and Manga sections ● Inventory Graphic Novels and Manga sections
2025-2026	Selection Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FTR titles for 2025-2026 ● Series fill needs ● New fiction and graphic novels
	Inventory/ Weeding Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weed fiction genre sections ● Inventory fiction genre sections: Classics, Fantasy, Historical Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Horror, Humor, Magical Realism, Mystery/Suspense, Realistic, Romance, Sci-fi, Sports/Adventure

Reconsideration of Materials

While the library recognizes the right of any individual to challenge available materials, the library does not add or withdraw, at the request of any individual or group, materials which have been chosen or excluded on the basis of stated selected criteria. In the event of a challenge by a citizen of Palm Beach County, personnel at ACHS will follow SDPBC Policy 8.1205 (Appendix D) – Objection Procedures for Instructional Materials, Library Media Materials, and Supplemental Classroom Materials, including Reading Lists. Any person wishing to make a challenge will fill out PBS Form 1113 (Appendix E).

Appendix A

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting the abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939.

Amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; and January 23, 1980;

inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council

Appendix B

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION THE FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*
2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*
3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*
4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*
5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*
6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*
7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, July 12, 2000, June 30, 2004, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.

First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

The Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791

Endorsed by the Board of Library Trustees: August 24, 2009, October 22, 2012, August 22, 2016

Appendix C



Book	School Board Policies
Section	Ch. 8. Curriculum and Instruction
Title	Selection of Library Media Center Materials and Reading List Materials
Code	8.12
Status	Active
Adopted	December 27, 2022
Last Revised	January 24, 2018
Last Reviewed	January 24, 2018
Prior Revised Dates	2/18/72; 4/6/83; 2/20/85; 6/16/99; 5/7/2008; 1/24/2018; 12/27/2022

Policy 8.12 - Selection of Library Media Center Materials and Reading List Materials

1. **Adequate Library Media Materials.**-- Library media materials for the school's Library Media Center, including print, non-print, serials [periodicals], electronic resources, computer software, video images, films, and instructional television programs, represent fundamental resources selected for schools to support instruction, promote reading, further the pursuit of knowledge through research and exploration, and provide information literacy experiences of educational significance for class groups, individual students, teachers and administrators. It is the shared responsibility of the State, District, and school, within budgetary constraints, to provide an adequate number and range of library media materials and resources in a variety of formats that are appropriate, timely, and essential to the attainment of specified educational objectives subject to District policy. It is also the responsibility of the State and District and school to provide library media materials that represent the diverse cultures, ethnic groups, languages and religious beliefs of the community and that are free of bias, stereotypes, distortions, and prejudices.
2. **Reading List Materials.**-- Reading list materials are recommended or assigned materials school- wide or grade level.
3. **Purpose.**-- The Board believes that the selection of library media materials and reading list materials is within its jurisdiction pursuant to relevant statutory and constitutional laws. The library media center, within budgetary constraints, shall contain a comprehensive collection of materials and equipment, in a variety of media formats that are accessible to students during the school day, to:
 - a. Promote the development of lifelong reading habits and information literacy skills in students;
 - b. Provide a broad background of information resources in areas of knowledge;
 - c. Support the general educational goals of the District and the objectives of specific courses, including materials that represent diverse points of view in order that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical analysis of media and intellectual integrity in forming judgments;
 - d. Meet the personal needs and interests of students, including materials that: nurture the development of recreational reading/listening/ viewing, cultural appreciation, and aesthetic values; represent the many religious, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groups in our society and reflect their contributions to the heritage and culture of our civilization; foster respect for the diverse roles available to women and men in today's society; and provide access to materials in heritage language as stipulated by the META agreement.

e. Support the professional needs of teachers and administrators; and

f. Introduce new instructional technologies into the learning environment.

4. **Choice.**-- Library media materials are available to students and staff as optional resources and are usually not mandatory reading as is the case with textbook instructional materials.

Library media that is sensitive or mature may not be appropriate for all readers in a school but remains a part of the collection to address the needs of some of the reading community if it meets the selection criteria of the school. Educators and library media specialists should be sensitive to the reading level, belief system, interest level and maturity level of students when helping make selections for individuals, reading aloud to groups, or when having whole class participation in a reading project. If a parent or adult student states a reasonable objection to library reading material assigned to a class, comparable instruction will be made available for the student through an alternate reading assignment without penalty.

5. **Use of Library Media Materials Allocation.**-- School principals are responsible for ensuring that operating budget and state categorical funds are used to purchase library media materials that reinforce instruction and stimulate leisure reading for the students enrolled at the grade level(s) for which the materials are designed and to effectively communicate to parents the manner in which materials are used to implement the curriculum of the school under Fla. Stat. § 1006.40.

6. **Management of Library Media Materials.**-- Following practice and precedent, the school library media centers in Palm Beach County will arrange media and materials according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Library media materials acquired with funds from the General Appropriation Act of the State of Florida are to be cataloged and inventoried as part of the library media collection. Library media materials may be inventoried in one to three year cycles.

7. **Selection.**-- HB 1467 (2022), amending Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 provides selection requirements.

a. Initial Review Process

- i. "Each book made available to students through a school district library media center or included in a recommended or assigned school or grade-level reading list must be selected by a school district employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate, regardless of whether the book is purchased, donated, or otherwise made available to students."
- ii. For resources needing additional review by District Library Media Services, school-based certified library media specialists or principal designee will use PBSD 2671, attached hereto and incorporated as part of this policy, to solicit additional input.

- b. The School Board is herein adopting "procedures for developing library media center collections" and shall "post the procedures" on each school's website within the District.

- c. Each elementary school ^[1] must "publish on its website, in a searchable format prescribed by the [Florida Department of Education], a list of all materials maintained in the school library media center (as defined by SBER 6A-7.0713, including classroom libraries) or required as part of a school or grade-level reading list."

- d. Per HB 1467 (2022), § 1006.28 (2) (d), these procedures for developing library media center collections must:

- i. "Require that **book selections** meet the criteria in s. 1006.40(3) (d)."^[2] ___
- ii. Require consultation of reputable, professionally recognized reviewing periodicals^[3] ___, if available after a documented diligent search, and school community stakeholders. ^[4] ___
- iii. "Provide for library media center collections based on reader interest, support of state academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty."
- iv. "Provide for the regular removal or discontinuance of books based on, at a minimum, physical condition, rate of recent circulation, alignment to state academic standards and relevancy to curriculum, out-of-date content, and required removal pursuant to subparagraph (a) 2."^[5] ___

In addition to regular review, removal, or discontinuance by a school library media specialist, the Superintendent or designee, even without an Objection or challenge, has the authority to remove library media materials or materials on reading lists based on statutory considerations.

The basis for the removal shall be documented. Removal procedures regarding an Objection are based on Statute and/or School Board Policy 8.1205 Objection Procedures for Instructional Materials.

- e. The District may restrict access to school library media and reading list materials from students in grade Kindergarten through Grade Three if such materials instruct on sexual orientation or gender identity because HB 1557 (2022) prohibits such instruction.

8. Additional Selection Criteria

- a. Materials for use in school media centers or classroom library collections shall be carefully selected subject to the requirements stated above in Paragraph 7. A choice of materials that support the instructional program and promote reading shall be available to students and professional staff to allow for varying achievement levels, interests, and teaching/learning styles. Each school shall, in conjunction with the "Library Bill of Rights" (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>) of the American Library Association ("ALA"), State Statute, and District policy, follow District procedures for the evaluation, selection, management, and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this Policy and Policy 8.1205. Annually, the District requires using the selection criteria and the removal criteria referenced in this Policy to have library media specialists evaluate their collection in order to write a School Collection Development Plan to enhance their individual library programs that align to the District required components^[6]. They will share that plan with both their principal and District Library Media Services. Once the plan is approved, the school will post the school's plan on the school website. District Library Media Services will offer annual training on this process.
- b. The "Library Bill of Rights" referenced herein is to be used as a suggested guideline. To the extent that there are inconsistencies between the guidelines in the "Library Bill of Rights" and State Statute, or District policy, State Statute and District policy shall take precedence and shall govern the selection, retention and disposition criteria of library media materials for library media centers and classrooms.
- c. Selection of materials shall also be consistent with the provisions in the School Board's collective bargaining agreement with CTA relating to academic freedom and responsibilities--Article II, Section K--to the extent those provisions are applicable.
- d. Moreover, consistent with Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2) (a) 2, library media materials must be suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.
- e. In conjunction with the selection criteria above, employees holding a valid educational media specialist certificate (with the required training once it is available as stated in Paragraph 10 below) at each school location or if a qualified person is not employed at the school, by another District employee with these qualifications, shall evaluate and select print and non-print materials for the library media center using several of the criteria outlined below, as appropriate for the media type. **Any library media material containing pornography or otherwise prohibited by Fla Stat. § 847.012 as harmful to minors may not be used or made available within any public school.**
- f. Additional criteria used in evaluating and selecting all materials include:
- i. EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. -- Material is valuable to an individual course of study or to the library media collection; the degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction.
 - ii. APPROPRIATENESS. -- Material is geared to the age, maturity, diverse interests, and learning levels of students for whom it is intended. Reading levels and Lexile's are considered to provide a range of material that challenges the student and guides their selection process.
 - iii. ACCURACY. -- Nonfiction information is correct, recent, and objective.
 - iv. LITERARY MERIT. -- Fiction that has a noteworthy plot, setting, characterization, style and theme.
 - v. SCOPE. -- Content is covered adequately to achieve its intended purpose.
 - vi. AUTHORITY. -- The author, editor, or producer has a superior reputation for producing materials of this nature.
 - vii. SPECIAL FEATURES. -- The item has maps, charts, graphs, glossaries, and/or other learning aids that support the content, are unique or are valuable.
 - viii. TRANSLATION INTEGRITY. -- Material translated from one language to another maintains the stylistic characteristics of the original.

- ix. ARRANGEMENT. -- Concepts are presented in a logical sequence and in a way that assures learning.
- x. TREATMENT. -- Typeset, visuals, style, and/or medium captures and holds the student's attention.
- xi. TECHNICAL QUALITY. -- Sound is clear and audible; visuals project clearly.
- xii. AESTHETIC QUALITY. -- Material is superior to similar items in attractiveness and presentation of content.
- xiii. POTENTIAL DEMAND. -- Item has particular timeliness or popular appeal.
- xiv. DURABILITY. -- Material has the potential for frequent use or is of a nature that it will be considered consumable.
- xv. COPYRIGHT.-- Library media materials used in a school shall be procured and used in accordance with federal, state and District copyright laws, rules, and policies as referenced in School Board Policy 8.121.
- xvi. GRAPHIC NOVELS AND PERIODICALS.-- In addition to the above criteria, all pictures are to be reviewed for appropriateness prior to placing the graphic novel or periodical into circulation.

9. Compliance

- a. Per HB 1467 (2022), school principals are responsible for overseeing compliance with school district procedures for selecting school library media center materials at the school to which they are assigned.
 - b. Support toward compliance is available when the assigned school library media specialist(s) attend professional development/training hosted by the District Library Media team.
10. The Florida Department of Education (FL DOE) is developing an online training program by January 1, 2023 for school librarians, media specialists, and other personnel involved in the selection and maintenance of library media and collections or materials maintained on a reading list. These persons must complete this training once it is available before reviewing and selecting age appropriate materials, reading list materials, and library resources.
11. Per Fla. Stat. § 1006.29 (6), no later than July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Superintendent must certify to the FL DOE that all school librarians and media specialists employed by the District have completed the FL DOE online training program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 120.81 (1) (a); 1001.32(2); 1001.41(1), (2), & (5); 1001.42.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.32(2); 1001.42 (2), (9) (13), & (19)(a); 1001.43(2) & (3); 1006.28; 1006.40; 1006.41; 847.012.

HISTORY: 2/18/72; 4/6/83; 2/20/85; 6/16/99; 5/7/2008; 1/24/2018; 12/27/2022

RELATED POLICIES:

Policy 8.1205 - Objection Procedures for Instructional Materials, Library Media Materials, and Supplemental Classroom Materials, including reading Lists

- [1] The District shall rely on any State Board of Education Rule designation of an elementary school.
- [2] This Statute states that the materials must be: "1. Free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012 [harmful to minors]. 2. Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented and Appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used or made available."The District shall rely on any State Board of Education Rules, if they exist, to determine what is age appropriate.
- [3] These periodicals are print or non-print media including video footage that have been favorably reviewed by two or more professional sources, if available after a documented diligent search, such as a School Library Journal, Horn Book, Booklist, Association for Library Service to Children, Kirkus, Young Adult Library Services Association, and/or Children's Catalog.
- [4] Any community stakeholders may provide consultation on selections via the list of LMS Selections for the current school year at https://www.palmbeachschools.org/students_parents/school_library_media_center_resources/_active_book_orders then click on Active LMS Book Orders. On the date of the requested purchase or acceptance of library media center materials, the District will provide an email or text notice to current members of the Board's Academic Advisory Committee (Policy 1.097) that there are new materials under consideration, the link to find the list of materials, and the deadline(s) for submitting questions or comments. Stakeholders with questions or concerns are directed to the following email address: librarymediaservices@palmbeachschools.org , for sending their feedback to be reviewed by the District Library Media team for consideration. Selections may be purchased or accepted 72 hours after posting for book fair materials and two weeks after posting for all other purchases or donations.
- [5] Subparagraph (a) (2) relates to School Board Policy 8.1205 Objection Procedures for Library Media Materials.
- [6] The School Collection Development Plan will include: School Mission Statement, Library Mission Statement, Purpose of the Collection Development Plan, School Community Description, Description of Your Library Program, Budget and Funding, Scope of Collection, Collection Development, Gifts and Donations, Collection Maintenance, Challenged Materials, and Goals and Objectives.

Appendix D



Book	School Board Policies
Section	Ch. 8. Curriculum and Instruction
Title	Objection Procedures for Instructional Materials, Library Media Materials, and Supplemental Classroom Materials, including Reading Lists
Code	8.1205
Status	Active
Adopted	November 30, 2022
Last Revised	January 24, 2018
Prior Revised Dates	5/7/2008; 1/24/2018

Policy 8.1205 - Objection Procedures for Instructional Materials, Library Media Materials, and Supplemental Classroom Materials, including Reading Lists

This Policy does not apply to the 30-day post-adoption challenges to specific instructional materials by parents or County residents in compliance with Fla. Stat. § 1006.28(1) (a) (3). The procedures to follow for those challenges are outlined in School Board Policy 8.122, subparagraph (3)(g).

In addition, the Superintendent or designee, even without an objection or challenge, has the authority to remove instructional materials, library media materials, supplemental classroom materials on reading list based on statutory considerations. The basis for the removal shall be documented.

This Policy implements Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2)(a)2 relating to: objections by parents or this County's residents to: a) instructional materials more than 30 days after adoption of instructional materials and b): library media materials, including reading lists, and non-adopted classroom materials. The procedures to follow for those challenges are outlined below; however, a parent or a resident of this County has the option to speak and proffer evidence at the Board hearing on adopting instructional materials and the Board adoption meeting without having followed the procedures below.

1. Grievance Procedures Concerning Core Instructional Materials, Library Media Materials, Reading Lists, and Supplemental Classroom Instructional Materials

- a. The Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to administer the following procedures in accordance with federal and state law.
- b. Any resident of Palm Beach County, or emancipated student or parent of a child attending public school in Palm Beach County may file an objection with a school or the Board Clerk concerning the use of or content in instructional materials, library media materials, and supplemental classroom materials, including reading lists.
- c. The parent or resident will be provided the opportunity to proffer evidence on the grounds stated within Fla. Stat. § 1006.28(2)(a)(2), relating to instructional materials, library media materials, and supplemental classroom materials, including reading lists.
- d. Challenged materials may be removed from use in the school where the objection was initiated after the procedures of this Policy have been completed or if it is agreed by the District at any of these stages. Per Fla. Stat. § 1006.28(2)(a)(2), if the School Board "finds that an instructional material does not meet the criteria under sub-subparagraph a. or that any other material contains prohibited content under sub- subparagraph b., the school district shall discontinue use of the material for any grade level or age group for which such

use is inappropriate or unsuitable.”

- e. Objections filed by a parent or emancipated student shall be heard in the school in which that student is registered. If the parent has children at different schools in Palm Beach County, then the objection must specify which school(s) the objection pertains to and it will be heard in that/those school(s). If the objecting party is not the parent of a child in the School District, the objection will be assigned to the appropriate school within the boundary corresponding to the residence of the objecting party for review if the material is located at that school or to the school in close proximity where the material is located.

2. School Level: Informal Complaint

- a. Any complaint arising out of the use of a material in a school shall be registered in writing with the principal of the school. Within five school days of the receipt of the complaint, the principal and/or his/her designee and the appropriate staff member(s) shall meet with the complainant to explain:
 - i. the school's selection procedures for these materials;
 - ii. the criteria used for the selection of these materials;
 - iii. the role that the material in question has in the school's curriculum or library media center or classroom collection; and
 - iv. whatever additional information is deemed needed regarding the item's use.
- b. If the complainant is not satisfied with the explanation and desires to file a formal complaint, the formal procedures below shall be followed.

3. School Level: Formal Complaint

- a. As stated in Policy 8.122, objections to instructional materials and Supplemental Classroom Materials, including Reading Lists, shall be filed on form PBSD 2569 (Petition to Object/Objection to Instructional Materials), which is part of this policy and incorporated herein as part of this Policy. The form can be found on the District's forms website at: <https://www2.palmbeachschools.org/formssearch/pdf/2569.pdf> .
- b. For objections to Library Media Materials, the complainant shall file form PBSD 1113 ("Objection to, Library Media Materials") and this form can be obtained from the Principal or a designee. A copy of the form is also available on the District's forms Web site at <https://www2.palmbeachschools.org/formssearch/pdf/1113.pdf> and is incorporated herein by reference as part of this Policy.
- c. The complainant shall sign and sufficiently complete the applicable form in its entirety for each I material to be considered, including stating the basis of the objection, retain one copy, and send one copy of the completed form to the principal of the school. *Failure to sufficiently fill out the form along with complainant's signature will result in the rejection of the form and no formal review process under this subsection will be initiated.*
- d. A challenge to the same material(s) by multiple challengers within one school can be consolidated into one challenge for consideration by the School Materials Review Committee, Principal, Superintendent, District Material Review Committee, and School Board (the reviewing persons and entities) as set forth in the below proceedings.
- e. A challenge to multiple materials will require additional preparation time for the reviewing persons and entities set forth below. A challenge of more than five materials will add an additional two (2) days per item to the time deadlines for the school or District actions that are specified within this Policy.
- f. For materials used *in that school*, the form and the material in question shall be studied by a School Materials Review Committee appointed on an ad hoc basis by the school Principal. Representation on the School Materials Review Committee should reflect the diversity of the District and school, and the following provisions apply:
 - i. The committee shall consist of the Principal or his/her designee of the school where the complaint was made; two teachers in the appropriate subject area/grade; one teacher from another subject area/grade; a library media specialist; a guidance counselor; one student from the appropriate grade level or a student who is accomplished in the specific subject area (middle and senior high school only); one layperson from the school's Parent-Teacher Association or the School Advisory Council; a representative designated by the Regional Superintendent, and a representative from the District department representing Instructional Materials and/or Library Media Services.
 - ii. The School Materials Review Committee shall meet within fifteen (15) school work days of receipt by the Principal of the reconsideration form. The complainant shall be notified of the committee's meeting

date and time and shall be invited to present arguments for no more than 10 minutes unless time is extended by the committee for good cause. A question/answer period or committee discussion may follow the presentation at the committee's discretion.

- iii. The School Materials Review Committee shall solicit, if readily available, professionally written reviews of the material, from sources such as those listed in School Board Policy 8.12(7)(d)(ii).
 - iv. The School Materials Review Committee shall be chaired by the Principal or his/her designee. A recorder of minutes shall be appointed from the membership of the committee to take minutes and to record the recommendation of the committee.
 - v. If the review is not completed, the committee may schedule additional meetings. Within five (5) school work days of its final meeting, the School Materials Review Committee shall prepare the committee's recommendation with supporting reasons and use form PBSB 1857, School Materials Review Committee Recommendations, or a signed letter written on school letterhead. The form can be found on the District's forms Web site at <https://www2.palmbeachschools.org/formssearch/pdf/1857.pdf> and is incorporated herein by reference.
- g. Guidelines for Committee's Recommendation. -- The School Materials Review Committee shall review enough of the relevant portions of the material being challenged in order to make an informed recommendation on the request. The committee shall also consider readily available reviews of the material, study the comments on the complainant's questionnaire, consider one or more of the evaluative criteria in Policy 8.12(7) (for media center materials) or State requirements and guidelines and Policy 8.122 (for textbooks or other instructional materials and reading lists) and shall render a decision based on a majority vote.
- i. The selection criteria in Policy 8.12(7), for media center, shall be made available to all interested persons.
 - ii. The recommendation to the Principal will be based on the selection criteria in School Board Policy 8.12(7) (for media center materials), State requirements and guidelines and School Board Policy 8.122 (for textbooks and instructional materials), and the following additional factors and criteria:
 - A. educational significance of the material;
 - B. appropriateness of age and maturity level;
 - C. need and value to the collection/curriculum;
 - D. summation of the professional reviews on the media;
 - E. literary merit;
 - F. validity, accuracy, objectivity, and up-to-date and appropriate information;
 - G. freedom from stereotypes, bias, prejudice or distortion; and
 - H. timeliness or permanence.

A. In addition, the recommendation shall also consider the provisions in the School Board's collective bargaining agreement with CTA relating to academic freedom and responsibilities-- Article II, Section K--to the extent those provisions are applicable. However, pursuant to current case law, the committee may not recommend removal of non-curricular books from the school's media center or classroom simply because a majority of the committee dislikes the ideas or the points-of-view contained in the media center instructional or supplemental classroom instructional materials.
- h. Committee's Recommendation to the Principal. -- The committee's final recommendation shall be immediately forwarded to the school Principal and may be any or a combination of the following:
- i. allow the challenged material to maintain its current status;
 - ii. leave the challenged material in the classroom or library media center, but allow students to use alternate materials approved by school personnel who require the use of the disputed item;
 - iii. limit the educational use of the challenged material;

- iv. transfer the challenged material to a higher level school (e. g. elementary to a middle school); and/or
- v. remove the challenged material from the school environment.

i. Principal's Written Decision. -- Within five (5) school work days after receipt of the School Materials Review Committee's recommendation, the Principal shall make a decision, based on the same criteria considered by the committee as set forth in subsection (3)(g) above, on whether to follow the committee's recommendation, and shall inform the complainant *in writing* of the recommendation of the committee, the Principal's decision, and *the reasons for the recommendation and decision*. This written communication must inform the complainant of the next level of appeal under this policy and the time deadline if the decision is not the relief sought by the objecting party. Such communication shall be sent by regular U. S. Mail, and certified mail, return receipt requested.

4. **District Level: Formal Appeal.** -- The complainant may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent, subject to the following provisions.

- a. If the complainant appeals the Principal's decision, the Principal shall send copies of all reports and communications to division and department heads that supervise Instructional Materials and Library Media Services and to the appropriate Regional Superintendent.
- b. Access to challenged materials shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process; the materials shall remain in use unless the School Materials Review Committee, through formal vote, recommended removal of the instructional materials to the Principal, and the decision to remove is made by the Principal.
- c. Within twenty (20) calendar days of the date of the Principal's decision, the complainant shall notify the Superintendent in writing of the request to appeal. *Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the appeal not being considered.*
- d. Within twenty (20) school work days of receipt of such request, the Superintendent or his/her designee and appropriate staff shall review the action taken at the school level and issue a decision based on the same criteria set forth in subsection (3)(g) above and with the same alternative results as set forth in subsection (3)(h) above. If the decision does not include further review by the Superintendent/designee (and District Materials Review Committee), the complainant shall be so notified of the decision and be informed of the ability and deadline to request *in writing* an appearance to appeal directly to The School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida in accordance with this Policy. Notice to the complainant shall be made by regular U. S. Mail and certified mail, return receipt requested.
- e. If the Superintendent finds cause for further review, the complaint shall be submitted to a District Materials Review Committee whose representation reflects the diversity of the District and school, appointed on an ad hoc basis by the Superintendent or his/her designee, according to the following provisions:
 - i. Representation on District Instructional Materials Committees should reflect the diversity of the District and schools.
 - ii. Individuals on the District Materials Review Committee cannot be the same as those that served on the School Materials Review Committee.
 - iii. The committee shall consist of the Chief Academic Officer or his/her designee; an appropriate Regional Superintendent or designee; one Principal at the appropriate level; a division or department head that supervises Instructional Materials, and/or Library Media Services, an appropriate subject area Administrator/Program Planner; one teacher in the appropriate subject area/grade; one library media specialist; one student from the appropriate grade level or a student who is accomplished in the specific subject area (middle and senior high only); a representative from the Palm Beach County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations who will be appointed by the President of the District Association, a representative from the District Academic Advisory Committee; and one lay person. The General Counsel to the School Board, or designated attorney(s) of his/her Office, may be invited to provide legal advice to the Committee, if deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.
 - iv. In the event that a person from a position named above cannot be present at the District Materials Review Committee meeting(s), the Superintendent may appoint an alternate.
 - v. District Materials Review Committee Procedures
 - A. The District Materials Review Committee shall be chaired by the Chief Academic Officer or his/her designee. A recorder of minutes shall be appointed from the membership of the committee to take minutes and to record the recommendation of the committee.

- B. The District Materials Review Committee shall solicit, if readily available, professionally written reviews of the material, from sources such as those listed in Policy 8.12(7)(d)(ii).
 - C. The District Materials Review Committee shall meet and *provide a recommendation with supporting reasons* to the Superintendent within twenty (20) school work days of receipt of the referral from the Superintendent, based on the criteria set forth in subparagraph (4)(e)(v)(D) and paragraph (vi) below. The complainant shall be notified of the committee's meeting date and time and shall be invited to present argument for no more than 10 minutes, unless time is extended by the committee for good cause. A question/answer period or committee discussion may follow the presentation *at the committee's discretion*.
 - D. If the review is not completed, the committee may schedule additional meetings. Within five (5) school work days of its final meeting, the District Materials Review Committee shall prepare the committee's recommendations with supporting reasons.
- f. Guidelines for Recommendation to the Superintendent. -- The District Materials Review Committee shall review enough of the relevant portions of the material being challenged in order to make an informed recommendation on the request. The committee shall also consider readily available reviews of the material, study the comments on the complainant's questionnaire, consider one or more of the evaluative criteria in School Board Policy 8.12(7) (for media center materials) or State requirements and guidelines and School Board Policy 8.122 (for textbooks and instructional materials) and shall render a decision based on a majority vote.
- i. The Selection Criteria in Policy 8.12(7) (for media center materials) shall be made available to all interested persons.
 - ii. The recommendation to the Superintendent will be based on the selection criteria in School Board Policy 8.12(7) (for media center materials), State requirements and guidelines and School Board Policy 8.122 (for textbooks and instructional materials), as well as the following criteria:
 - A. educational significance of the material;
 - B. appropriateness of age and maturity level;
 - C. need and value to the collection/curriculum;
 - D. summation of the professional reviews on the media;
 - E. literary merit;
 - F. validity, accuracy, objectivity, and up-to-date and appropriate information;
 - G. freedom from stereotypes, bias, prejudice or distortion; and
 - H. timeliness or permanence.
 - I. In addition, the recommendation shall also consider the provisions in the School Board's collective bargaining agreement with CTA relating to academic freedom and responsibilities-- Article II, Section K--to the extent those provisions are applicable. However, pursuant to current case law, the committee may not recommend removal of non-curricular books from the school's media center or classroom simply because a majority of the committee dislikes the ideas or the points-of-view contained in the media center or supplemental classroom instructional materials.
- g. Committee's Recommendation to the Superintendent. -- The recommendation of the District Materials Review Committee and the basis for that recommendation shall be transmitted to the Superintendent; the Chief Academic Officer, the Principal of the school that received the original complaint; and the complainant.
- h. Superintendent's/Designee's Written Decision. -- The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make a final decision, based on the same criteria considered by the committee as set forth in subparagraph (4)(f) above, within five (5) school work days of receipt of the District Materials Review Committee recommendation, and send a written report of that decision to the Chief Academic Officer, the appropriate Assistant Superintendent, the Principal of the school; and the complainant. *The written decision shall state procedures and time limits to appeal to the Board if the complainant is dissatisfied.* This decision shall be sent to the complainant by regular U. S. mail and certified mail, return receipt requested.

- i. The Department of Communications & Engagement shall make the selection criteria and a copy of the material(s) in question available for review upon request of interested persons.

5. Board Level Appeal

- a. The complainant may appeal the decision of the Superintendent/designee to the School Board under subsection (4)(b) or paragraph (4)(d) above by filing a signed writing with the School Board Clerk within thirty (30) days of the decision and may request an appearance before the School Board.
- b. After notice to the appealing party, the School Board Level review shall occur at a public meeting and allow presentation of evidence. The School Board's decision shall be based on the same criteria considered by the Superintendent as set forth in subsections (4)(f) and (h) above.

6. Policy Awareness

- a. A copy of the selection and reconsideration procedures as set forth in this Policy and in Board Policy 8.12 should be a part of the Collection Development Plan for each school library media center and should be available for easy access and reference.
- b. Each school Principal should include at a minimum, a summary or references to this Challenge Policy and School Board Policy 8.12 in the school's staff handbook and shall review the selection and reconsideration procedures with the staff as needed, emphasizing Board policy pertaining to the teaching of controversial issues and the ethical considerations that are needed in handling citizen complaints with courtesy and integrity.

7. Reporting Objections

- a. HB 1467 (2022), which created Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2)(e) requires that:

“Annually, beginning June 30, 2023, [the School Board] submit to the Commissioner of Education a report that identifies: a. Each material for which the school district received an objection pursuant to [Fla. Stat. 1006.28] subparagraph (a)2 [regarding an objection by a parent or a resident of the county to the use of a specific instructional material or any material used in a classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list] for the school year and the specific objections thereto. b. Each material that was removed or discontinued as a result of an objection. c. The grade level and course for which a removed or discontinued material was used, as applicable.”

- b. However, Fla. Stat. § 1011.67 Funds for instructional materials relating to the Superintendent report due to the Commissioner of Education by July 1 states:

“The certification must identify any material that received an objection pursuant to s. 1006.28 for the school year and the specific objections thereto, each material that was removed or discontinued as a result of an objection, and the grade level and course for which a removed or discontinued material was used, as applicable.”

- c. Accordingly, this data must be collected for these reports in a manner as determined by the Superintendent/designee.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 120.81 (1) (a); 1001.32 (2); 1001.41(1)(2) & 5); 1001.42 (2)(11)(13) & (29)

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.32(2); 1001.41(i)(2) & (5); 1001.42 (2)(11) (13) & (29); 1001.42(7) & (17)(a); 1001.43(2)(3); 1003.42; 1006.28; 1006.31; 1006.34; 1006.40; 1006.41; 847.012

HISTORY: 5/7/2008; 1/24/2018; 11/30/2022

RELATED POLICIES:

School Board Policy 8.122 Textbooks and Related Instructional Materials
 School Board Policy 8.12 Selection of Library Media Center Materials
 School Board Policy 5.735 Parent's Bill of Rights

Appendix E



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

Objections to Library Media Materials

For use by a parent, emancipated student, or resident of the county who is challenging library media materials.

Check the appropriate box if you are objecting as a parent, or emancipated student, or as a resident of this county.

Parent/emancipated student County resident

If as a resident, check any applicable boxes.

I have maintained a residence in Florida for the past year. I have purchased, leased, or acquired a home occupied by me as my residence. I have established a domicile in Florida.

School #	School Name	Date
Author	Title	

Hardcover Book Paperback Book DVD eBook Film Other _____

Publisher (if known) _____

Request Initiated By	Phone Number		
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

Objecting party Individual Group Organization Other _____

Name of group/organization/other _____

To what do you object? (be specific)

Why do you object to this material?

For what age group would you recommend this material? _____

What are the strengths of this material?

Did you review this material? Yes No

Are you aware of the judgment of this material by library and authoritative critics? Yes No

What do you believe is the function of this material?

What would you like the school to do about this material?

In its place, what material of equal quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of our civilization?

Print Name of Objecting Party/Resident Signature of Objecting Party/Resident Date

PBSD 1113 (Rev. 11/28/2017)

ORIGINAL - Principal

COPY - Objecting Party

COPY - Instructional Materials