

POLICY ON LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The library materials selection policy is based upon the principles incorporated in the following documents: United States Constitution, especially the First Amendment; the Student's Right to Read, National Council of the Teachers of English; American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights", the American Library Association's "Freedom to Read," the American Library Association's "Freedom to View", American Association of School Librarians, "School Library Bill of Rights", standards adopted by the American Association of School Librarians, school library standards of the Massachusetts School Library Media Association, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations pertaining to curricula.

To this end, the School Committee endorses the Library Bill of Rights, as adopted by the American Library Association, which asserts certain responsibilities of a school library:

1. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.
2. To provide materials in an appropriate and current format to effectively teach the curriculum.
3. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
4. To provide a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgements in their daily lives.
5. To provide materials on various different sides of controversial issues, so that students may develop under guidance the practice of critical analysis of all media.
***The Weston School Committee and the Weston School District does not necessarily endorse opinions represented or expressed in library materials.*
6. To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
7. To place principle above personal opinion and avoid prejudice in selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.
8. To provide materials with a recent copyright date as appropriate to the subject, and as reasonably possible.

A family may in some cases decide to limit materials that their individual student will use, but the wishes of one student or family to restrict that student's reading or viewing of a particular item shall not infringe on other students' rights to access that same material.

Initial purchase suggestions for library materials may come from anyone, including staff, students, and families; but the official responsibility for the selection of all library media materials is delegated to the District's professional library media specialists, with oversight from the Director of Technology and Libraries and Superintendent. Each school Librarian will execute the purchase of materials to be included in the school library, while any gifts of library books will be accepted in keeping with the above policy on selection.

Reconsideration Procedures

If an individual with a bonafide connection to the Weston School District raises a challenge to resources kept in a school's library, the following procedure will be followed:

1. An objection should be directed to the library media specialist or to the Director of Technology and School Libraries, who can provide information regarding the selection and use of the material. If the objection cannot be resolved at this level;
2. A formal complaint can be filed [using a form](#) made available online that will initiate a screening by the Director of Technology and Libraries, which may lead to a formal review process.
3. The Director of Technology and Libraries shall review the complaint within ten (10) school days.
 - a. If the Director does not find there is good cause, they will notify the complainant in writing with a brief explanation of the finding.
 - b. Upon a finding of good cause for complaint, the Director of Technology and Libraries shall convene a materials reconsideration committee.

Materials Reconsideration Committee

1. The Reconsideration Committee should consist of the following members:
 - a. The Director of Technology and Libraries (chair)
 - b. the Superintendent or their designee
 - c. the Library Media Specialist,
 - d. the Principal,
 - e. a Department Head or Director (related to the content area if applicable),
 - f. a Faculty member,
 - g. a current student (if appropriate by age)
 - h. and a current student's parent/guardian (different than student member)
2. The Reconsideration Committee may proceed without one or more if unavailable after exhausting a good faith effort to fill the role. The Reconsideration Committee shall be chaired by the Director of Technology and Libraries, or in their absence, the Superintendent or another designated senior District administrator.
3. The Reconsideration Committee will be scheduled to meet within twenty-one (21) school days after the finding of good cause to convene by the Director of Technology and Libraries. Challenges over school breaks will be held until a break has ended.
4. Packets including copies of the reconsideration request form, bibliographic data on the challenged material, and professional reviews or other relevant information about the challenged material will be forwarded to Reconsideration Committee members as soon as possible by the chair of the committee.
5. A meeting will be held to provide the complainant an opportunity to address the Reconsideration Committee, within the reasonable parameters set by the chair.
 - a. At the meeting, the Reconsideration Committee will consider the complaint and consider work as a whole, including the review of literature, in order to assess the merits of the work in the context of a school library.

6. In making a decision, the Reconsideration Committee Chair will issue a written report to the School Committee explaining the reasons for their recommendation to remove or to retain the work in question. If the Reconsideration Committee Chair recommends removal, the school committee shall consider the removal.
 - a. The decision and report will be made within 30 school days of the initial finding of good cause to convene the specific Reconsideration Committee.
 - b. A recommendation of the Reconsideration Committee to sustain a challenge shall not necessarily be interpreted as a judgment of professionals involved in the original selection of the material.
7. If any members of the Reconsideration Committee disagree with the decision of the majority of committee members, then the dissenting view(s) shall have the opportunity to explain their dissent in the report to the School Committee.
8. If the complainant is still not satisfied by the report and/or a recommendation to retain, they may appeal their case directly to the Weston School Committee within ten (10) school days of their notice of the recommendation.
 - a. The appeal involves requesting a hearing before the full committee. The school committee chair may decline to add appeals to committee agendas.
9. Complaints regarding individual works should only be reconsidered through this process once every three (3) years, with limited exceptions to be considered as is necessary.
10. The school committee will periodically review a list of all the materials that have been removed pursuant to this policy. They will review the list for reconsideration of each item. This list will be maintained by the Director of Technology and Libraries.

Revised: 6/6/22

Cross ref: [Policy IJ-R](#), [Policy IJLA](#)