

This excerpt from Freedom to Read Statement June 25, 1953, and endorsed by the National Education Association provides the philosophy upon which the following policy is based:

“In the belief that our national tradition of free of expression is valid, we shall not assume, as censors, to determine what is good and reject the bad. We do not believe the American people are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of free press in order to be ‘protected’ against what others think may be bad for them. We favor free enterprise in ideas and expressions. We believe professional staff members have a profound responsibility to give validity to the freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose from a variety of offerings, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.

We hope to serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. People should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those held by any singular author or publisher.

It is our responsibility to contest encroachments upon the freedom to read by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.”

The Board of Education delegates the responsibility of the selection of instructional materials to the professionally trained staff of teachers, librarians, and administrators.

Selection and purchase of instructional materials shall be according to the guidelines and criteria established by the District Superintendent.

**Legal ref:** New York Education Law, §1950

**Approved:** October 17, 1984