

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF LIBRARY/ MEDIA MATERIALS**Bill of Rights for Library Media Center Programs**

The professional staff of school media centers is concerned with the development of informed and responsible citizens. To this end the American Association of School Librarians reaffirms the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association and asserts that the responsibility of the school media center is:

To provide materials that will enrich the student as an individual and support the curriculum, taking into consideration individual needs, and the varied interest, abilities, socio-economic backgrounds, and maturity levels of the student served.

To provide materials that will stimulate growth in knowledge and develop literary, cultural, and aesthetic appreciations and ethical standards.

To provide materials on all sides of issues, beliefs and ideas so that young citizens may develop the habit of critical thinking, reading, listening, and viewing, thereby enabling them to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgments.

To provide materials which accurately reflect all religious, social, political, and ethnic groups, and their contribution to our American heritage as well as knowledge and appreciation of world history and culture.

To provide a comprehensive collection of instructional materials which, when selected in compliance with basic selection principles, can be defended on the basis of their appropriateness for the users of the media center.

School library materials shall be selected in accordance with the following principles:

- A. Instructional materials shall be chosen on the basis of interest and teaching value for students. Material shall not be excluded because of race, nationality, religion, or political views of the writer.
- B. Where practical, materials shall be selected which present various points of view concerning contemporary problems and issues.
- C. Books and other materials shall not be banned or removed solely because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- D. The following factors shall be considered in the selection of library materials:

1. Selections shall be made for, and in accordance with, the different maturity levels of the students.
2. Materials shall be selected which fill a need related to the curriculum and/or contribute to the development and enrichment of the students.
3. In the selection of library materials, professionally recognized reviewing tools such as standard catalogs shall be used. When possible, audio visual materials shall be previewed before purchased or ordered with return privilege guaranteed.
4. The following specific criteria shall be considered:
 - a. The overall purpose of the material and how well that purpose is accomplished.
 - b. Reputation and significance of the author.
 - c. Timeliness and permanence of the material.
 - d. Importance of the subject matter to the collection.
 - e. Accuracy of the material.
 - f. Reputation and standards of the publisher or producer.
 - g. Readability and reader appeal.
 - h. Quality of writing and illustration.
 - i. Appearance of the title in material selection aids.
 - j. Cost.
5. Notification material dealing with subjects of criticism shall receive the same careful consideration as well as all other materials, including the following:

- a. Religion: Factual unbiased materials which represent all major religions may be included in the library collection. Bibles and other sacred writings are acceptable. Publications from religious bodies may be selected if they have general value.
 - b. Science: Medical and scientific materials shall be made available.
6. Gift books and other materials shall be accepted with the understanding that they must meet the same criteria as materials purchased with school funds. Gift books and other materials become the property of the school.

Guidelines for Reconsideration of Materials:

All decisions as to whether an item is appropriate for inclusion in the district's library media collection will be based on current standards established by the American Association of School Librarians, current educational standards, the district's policies, and applicable legal requirements.

Any parent/guardian of the Marietta School district who wishes to challenge inclusion of an item in the district's library media collection must submit a completed *Request for Re-evaluation of Materials* form to the building principal. If the principal is unable to satisfy the complainant during an informal conference, he/she should refer the matter to the Review Committee. No administrator, librarian, or teacher should agree to withdraw an item without referring it to the Review Committee which determines whether the material should be withdrawn from the collection.

The Review Committee will consist of the library media specialist, principal at the affected school site, two certified staff members, and a language arts teacher.

The material is reviewed and judged by this committee as to conformity with selection criteria and instructional goals. The decision of the committee is submitted to the complainant and a file of the objection and decision is kept by the District Library Media Specialist.

In the event that the complainant does not accept the decision of the Review Committee, he/she may appeal to the Board of Education through the superintendent. The final decision then rests with the Board of Education.