

## **Selection of Instructional Material**

### **Philosophy**

American democracy enables citizens to be able to listen to all sides of a controversial issue, sort out facts and arrive at independent conclusions; thus students in school should be exposed to issues which are within their maturity level and are under debate in our society.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy and the related rules is to provide direction for selection of instructional materials deemed appropriate to achieve the goals and objectives of the instructional programs of this district.

### **Responsibility of Selection**

While the Board retains its legal responsibility for all matters pertaining to the operation of the school district, it recognizes the expertise of the professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be primarily involved in the selection of instructional materials. Within each school building the principal assumes final authority in resolving conflicts among staff.

### **Policy**

The Bismarck Schools will provide a wide range of instructional material on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view for all students. The following general considerations will be used in selecting materials in libraries and classrooms, and for extra and co-curricular activities:

### **General Considerations for Instructional Material Selection**

1. The material is educationally suitable with consideration for all learning styles, abilities and interests.
2. The material is relevant to curriculum objectives.
3. The material is appropriate to age and educational level.
4. The material does not make use of pervasive vulgarity.
5. The material is presented in an unbiased manner in regard to sex roles and racial, religious, multi-age, and ethnic groups.
6. The material is in good physical condition and is complete.
7. The material is accurate and up to date.

8. The source is considered educationally competent and should stimulate growth in some or all of the following areas:
  - a. factual knowledge
  - b. literacy appreciation
  - c. aesthetic value
  - d. ethical standards
  - e. overall problem solving skills
  - f. critical media analysis skills

**Citizen Input and Review Opportunity**

The District specifically encourages all parents, guardians, and other citizens to read, review, and provide comments and suggestions on all materials selected for instructional use by the school district. Parents or guardians of students and other citizens are encouraged to make suggestions regarding texts, media, and supplemental materials for instructional use in the interest of the education of the students.

The District will provide notice and opportunities for parents/guardians to review texts, media, and supplementary materials and the Superintendent will provide administrative rules for the implementation of said notice and opportunities.