

Definitions

Instructional materials are defined by Texas Education Code §31.002 as content that conveys the essential knowledge and skills of a subject in the public school curriculum through a medium or a combination of media for conveying information to students.

For purposes of this policy, library materials, whether held in a formal school library or in a classroom, are defined as electronic, print, and nonprint resources, excluding textbooks, for independent use by students and faculty outside of TSD's core educational program.

While instructional materials and library materials are both considered instructional resources, they are not the same, and the terms shall not be used interchangeably.

Objectives

Since school libraries are viewed as places for voluntary inquiry, library materials must be treated differently from instructional materials used in classroom instruction. This policy provides criteria for the selection, removal, and replacement of library materials, focused on maximizing transparency with parents and community members while meeting student needs to provide supplemental enrichment in their learning with appropriate materials. Through the provision of these library materials, TSD shall recognize that parents hold an essential role in the education of their children and have the right to guide what their children read.

TSD shall apply the standards, dimensions, and expectations as defined by rule 13 TAC §4.1, and any related guidance including the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's [Guidance for School Libraries on Collection Development](#), as well as the [School Library Programs: Standards and Guidelines for Texas](#) to evaluate and set goals for the school library collection in alignment with board-approved policies and procedures.

**Avoiding
Inappropriate
Material**

In addition to the above criteria for selection, all material should be appropriate for students. Texas Penal Code §43.24(a)(2) describes harmful material as material whose dominant theme taken as a whole: (1) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor, in sex, nudity, or excretion; (2) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (3) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors. It is an offense in Texas to distribute this material in violation of Texas Penal Code §43.24(b). No library material shall be used if it contains content that can meet the harmful material standard. Finally, collection development policies must demonstrate a commitment to compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as specified in 47 U.S.C. §254(h)(5), including technology protection measures.

**Responsibility for
Selection**

The legal responsibility for the purchase of all library materials is vested in the Board. The committee including a board member will provide final approval for all new materials added to the library. Recommendations for new material and reorders of existing materials shall be made by the library supervisor or similar administrator designated by the Superintendent. This individual, with the assistance of other school personnel, shall discharge this obligation consistent with the Board's adopted selection criteria and procedures.

**Criteria for
Selection**

The library supervisor or designated administrator shall work cooperatively with library staff, faculty, and the administration to interpret and guide the application of this policy in making selections. To ensure parental engagement, TSD shall make the selection process of library materials readily available for parental review, with a list of all library materials posted on-line on TSD's website, and the content of all materials available for direct review during reasonable hours specified for such review.

Each item selected shall:

1. Support and enrich the curriculum and/or students'

personal interests and learning;

2. Meet high standards in literary, artistic, and aesthetic quality; technical aspects; and physical format;
3. Be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, intellectual development, and ability level of the students for whom the materials are selected;
4. For non-fiction resources, incorporate accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources;
5. Earn favorable reviews in standard reviewing sources and/or favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional personnel;
6. Balance cost with need.

In addition to the above criteria, fiction, narrative nonfiction (memoirs and biographies), and graphic novels must each meet the following selection criteria, with TSD determining that such materials:

1. Are integral to the instructional program.
2. Reflect the interests and needs of the students and faculty.
3. Are appropriate for the reading levels and understanding of students.
4. Are included because of their literary or artistic value and merit.

If narrative nonfiction, present information with the greatest degree of accuracy and clarity.

Prior to any new material being selected for inclusion, the committee will determine what material will be read reviewed, and recommended for inclusion by the library supervisor or individual(s) designated by that supervisor.

**Acquisition
Procedures**

DATE ADOPTED:
AMENDED: 08/26/22
EFB

The library supervisor or designated administrator shall select material based on their own expertise and solicit recommendations from others. Recommendations for library

acquisitions shall involve administrators, teachers, other personnel, parents, and community representatives, as appropriate.

Selection of materials is an ongoing process that includes the removal of collections deemed by the Committee to be no longer appropriate and the periodic replacement or repair of materials still of educational value.

School library materials orders shall be approved by the library supervisor or designee.

The selection and acquisition of the digital library collection will follow the same policies and procedures as the physical library collection. TSD shall ensure that the method by which students access the digital library will allow students only to access age/grade-appropriate content. The curator will apply access levels by consulting the peer-reviewed recommended age group, TSD librarians, and educators. Access levels shall be applied as:

Recommended Ages	Grade Span	Content Access Level
4-10	PK-5	Juvenile
11-13	6-8	Middle School
14+	9-12	High School
Adult	9-12	High School

TexQuest digital resources. [TexQuest](#) is the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's (TSLAC's) electronic instructional resources program for public schools. Participation in TexQuest is voluntary. TexQuest is supported by the Texas Legislature and by participation fees. TSLAC administers all aspects of the TexQuest program and coordinates with schools on the implementation and management

of any TexQuest resources the or school system selects to make available for its students.

TSLAC licenses resources for the TexQuest program following state procurement practices and with opportunities for community input. Professional librarians evaluate resources for inclusion in the program based on the TexQuest Collection Development Policy and actively manage the resulting contracts. Use of any or all TexQuest digital resources and e-books remains a Board decision

**Challenge
Procedures**

A parent of a TSD student may formally challenge library material used in TSD's educational program on the basis of appropriateness. The school receiving a complaint about the appropriateness of a library material shall try to resolve the matter informally through a telephone conference or meeting between the complainant and the school librarian, designated campus administrator, or library supervisor. The conference may also include other necessary staff members as deemed appropriate by library personnel. If the complainant wishes to file a formal request for reconsideration, a copy for the "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form shall be provided to the Complainant by the library supervisor or appropriate administrator. The following shall apply:

1. All formal concerns regarding library materials shall be submitted on the form provided by TSD and shall submit the completed and signed form to the library supervisor or designated administrator.
2. The library supervisor shall appoint a reconsideration committee within ten business days that shall review the challenged material and determine whether it conforms to the principles of selection set out in this policy.
3. The reconsideration committee shall include professional staff, including at least one member who has experience using the challenged resource with students or is familiar with the content of the challenged material, and two parents of students. The Superintendent or designee shall

chair the committee.

4. The total voting committee membership shall be an uneven number. The complainant will not be a member of the committee, but the complainant's written submission will be thoughtfully considered by the committee.
5. Prior to the committee meeting, each committee member will read a copy of the library material in question.
6. All committee members shall review the submitted written concern.
7. The committee will review all items on the Checklist for Reconsideration of Library Materials.
8. After working through the checklist for reconsideration of library materials and any deliberations the committee feels necessary, committee members will vote on the disposition of the library material being considered.

The major criterion for the final decision on challenged library material is the appropriateness of the resource for its intended educational use. The plurality opinion in *Bd. of Educ. v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982) uses the standard that no challenged instructional resource shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein. The opinion allows the removal of materials because they are pervasively vulgar or based upon the lack of educational suitability of the library material. Further, making a determination of appropriateness will include a review of and compliance with 47 U.S.C. §254(h)(5), Texas Penal Code §43.24(a)(2), and Texas Penal Code §43.24(b).

When the committee has reached a decision, the appropriate administrator shall notify the complainant. The decision shall be in written form, dated, and provided to the complainant within ten (10) District business days of the committee's meeting. All other appropriate staff members will be informed of the reconsideration and the outcome.

A specific library material that completes the formal challenge process and remains in the library will not be reconsidered within one year of final determination, and any

material removed will not be eligible for consideration to be added again for at least 10 years. TSD shall verify previous decisions prior to convening a re- consideration committee.

As noted above, TSLAC administers all aspects of the Tex-Quest program and has adopted policies for the selection and management of TexQuest resources. Challenges to material provided through the program would follow the TSLAC TexQuest Content review process.

Appeal of Reconsideration Committee. The complainant may appeal the decision of the reconsideration committee by filing the appropriate district grievance form (FNG or GF).

Parent Access to Books in Libraries

In recognizing that parents hold an essential role in the education of their children and have the right to guide what their child read, each library will maintain a printed list of materials onsite and on the school library website that shows what has been selected and what is slated for acquisition.

Other Parental Considerations

In school libraries, students are afforded the opportunity to self-select texts as part of literacy development. While librarians are trained in selecting materials in accordance with Board policy and the outlined selection criteria and may provide guidance to students in selecting texts, the ultimate determination of appropriate- ness lies with the student and parent.

School librarians, or designated campus administrators, are to encourage parents to share any considerations regarding their students' book selections. Parents may contact the campus librarian directly and/or complete an online form for library book opt-out decisions. School librarians will accommodate individual requests by parents, within reason, which may include restricting specific titles or books.

Criteria for Gifts and Donations

Gifts and donations to the school library are accepted with the understanding that the decision for use and disposition of the materials and/or funds will be determined using the same selection criteria as purchased materials. All materials

should support the curriculum and needs of library users. Gifts and donations, like purchased resources, will be removed from the collection at the end of their useful life. Gifts and donations will be subject to the acquisition policy and process for approval before including in the school library collection.

**Routine Review
and Removal of
Materials**

Annually, the library supervisor shall collaborate with library personnel and administration to conduct an inventory of the school library collection and equipment. The inventory can be used to determine losses and remove damaged or worn materials which can then be considered for replacement. The inventory can also be used to deselect and remove materials that are no longer relevant to the curriculum or of interest to students. Additionally, the library supervisor should develop a collection maintenance plan that includes systematic inspection of materials that would result in removing outdated, damaged, or irrelevant materials from the collection. All materials removed from the collection shall be disposed of in accordance with TSD's property disposal procedures. Incorporated into this routine review and removal of existing inventory, TSD shall create an ongoing cycle to review content existing in circulation.