

Materials Selection Policy

The Library/Media Center collaborates with classroom teachers in selecting and using materials that are an integral part of the curriculum. The materials are selected for interest, vocabulary, maturity and ability levels for students within the school.

The selection of resource materials shall be in accordance with the American Association of School Librarians Bill of Rights for the Unified School Media Program as stated below.

- Enriching and supporting the curriculum, taking into account interests and reading level.
- Developing the student - intellectually, emotionally, culturally and spiritually.
- Including different points of view on controversial issues to enable the students to develop the ability to read and think critically and make intelligent judgments.
- Representing all ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds.
- Creating a comprehensive and appropriate quality collection for students placing principle and reason above personal opinion.

Selection of materials will follow the Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program policy of the Simsbury Board of Education - see policy below.

6150 Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program

6150.1 No Discrimination in Curriculum

It is the policy of the Simsbury Board of Education that discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, physical or mental disability or national origin or sexual orientation will not exist in the school district with regard to programs, curriculum, assignment or educational opportunities.

The Simsbury Public Schools will continually examine its educational programs and activities to be certain that they do not purposely or inadvertently operate to the detriment of any person on any basis prohibited by law, including the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or national origin.

This school system pledges to avoid discriminatory actions and seeks to foster good human and educational relations which will help to attain:

- 1. equal right and opportunities for students and staff members in the school community.*
- 2. equal opportunity for all students to participate in the total school program of the schools.*
- 3. continual study and development of curricula toward improving human relations and understanding and appreciating cultural differences.*
- 4. Training opportunities for improving staff ability and responsiveness to educational and social needs.*
- 5. Opportunities in educational programs which are broadly available to all students.*
- 6. an appropriate learning environment for students which includes (1) adequate instructional books, supplies, materials, equipment, staffing, facilities and technology, (2) equitable allocation of resources among district schools and (3) a safe school setting.*

Each student will be advised of his/her right to an equal opportunity to participate in school programs without discrimination of any kind through student handbooks and/or other means.

Selection Process

Responsibility for the final selection shall be delegated to professionally trained library/media personnel who know the course of study, the methods of teaching and the individual differences of the pupils in the schools for which the materials are provided. Such selection is to be in accordance with the statement of philosophy.

Reputable, professionally prepared selection aids, such as H.W. Wilson's standard catalogs, Booklist, Library Journal, School Library Journal, Library Media Connection, Kirkus Reviews, professional association booklists and other professional journals are used in the selection process as well as teacher and student input. Print materials are judged by the guidelines set forth by the American Association of School Libraries.

All non-print materials are previewed prior to purchase. Non-print materials are judged by the evaluation criteria drawn up by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology. However, the selection will not be limited to such criteria.

Controversial Materials Procedure

Questions regarding the suitability of specific library materials should be directed to the respective Library Media Specialist and /or Building Principal. If a satisfactory outcome cannot be reached at the building level, criticisms of library materials must be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent on the Citizens' Request Form for Re-Evaluation of Library/Media Center Materials.

A Review Committee comprised of Assistant Superintendent, Building Administrator, Library Media Specialist, and representative teachers will determine the validity of the objection. The Review Committee shall function at the call of the Assistant Superintendent upon receipt of a complaint. The material shall be considered with the specific objection in mind. The decision of the Review Committee shall be completed as quickly as possible and then forwarded to the complainant.

The review of questioned materials shall be treated objectively and as an important matter. Every opportunity shall be afforded those persons or groups questioning school materials to meet with the committee and to present their opinions. The best interest of the students, curriculum, school and the community shall be of paramount consideration. No material shall be removed from use until the Review Committee has made a final decision. Appeals from the decision of the committee may be made to the Superintendent of Schools.

Accepted by the Simsbury Board of Education, 1978

Changed 1987

Revised 2007

CITIZEN'S REQUEST FORM FOR RE-EVALUATION OF LIBRARY /MEDIA
CENTER MATERIALS

Initiated by _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Representing

Self _____

Organization/group _____

Parent _____

School _____

_____ Other (identify)

Material questioned

Book

Author _____

Title _____

AV Material

Media Type _____

Title _____

Other Material

Type _____

Title _____

Please respond to the following questions. If sufficient space is not provided, please use additional paper.

1. Have you seen or read this material in its ENTIRETY?

_____ Yes _____ NO

2. To what do you object? (Please cite specific passages, pages, etc.)

3. What do you believe is the main idea of this material?

4. What do you feel might result from use of this material?

5. What reviews of this material have you read? (Give complete bibliographic citations.)

6. For what other age group might this be suitable?

7. What action do you recommend that the school take on this material?

8. In its place, what material do you recommend that would provide adequate information on the subject or serve the same educational purpose?

Signature _____

Date _____