

Raymond School District Policy - IJL

TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS SELECTION

It is the policy of the Raymond School District to select learning materials for students in accordance with the following:

1. Books and other materials shall be chosen for values of interest and enlightenment of all the students of the community. Materials shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, or political or religious views of the author.
2. There shall be the fullest practical provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local; and books or other materials of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Attempts at censorship of books shall be challenged in order to maintain the school's responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

Interpreting these principles in the selection of learning materials more specifically, the following will apply:

1. We believe it is the right and responsibility of teachers and librarians to select materials that are carefully balanced to include various points of view on any controversial subject.
2. Since materials are selected to provide for the interests and needs of the school community and the school program, these materials will be selected cooperatively by teachers, principals, and librarians, sometimes with the assistance of students.
3. Selection of materials will be assisted by reading, examining, and checking standard evaluation aids, i.e., standard catalogues and book review digests.
4. Two basic factors, truth and art, will be considered in the selection of books and other materials. The factor of truth includes factual accuracy, authoritativeness, balance, and integrity. The second factor is a quality of stimulating presentation, imagination, vision, creativeness, style appropriate to the idea, vitality, and distinction.
5. Materials for the school library shall be examined to select those in which the presentation and subject matter are suitable for the grade and the interest level at which they are to be used. They will be considered in relation to both the curriculum and the personal interests of pupils and teachers.

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(continued)

In formatting our policy, we considered the following subjects that have been topics of criticism: religion, ideologies, sex, and science.

1. Religion: Factual, unbiased material that represents all major religions should be included in the library collection.
2. Ideologies: The library, without making any effort to sway reader judgement, should make available basic factual information on the level of its reading public on any ideology or philosophy that exerts a strong force, either favorable or unfavorable, in government, current events, politics, education, or any other phase of life.
3. Sex and Profanity: Materials presenting accents on sex should be subjected to a stern test of literary merit and reality by the librarian, who takes into consideration his/her reading public. While we would not in any case include the sensational or over-dramatic, the fact of sexual incidents or profanity appearing in certain materials should not automatically disqualify that material. Rather, that decision should be made on the basis of whether the material presents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with, and whether the material is of literary value. Factual material of an educational nature on the level of the reader public should be included in the library collection.
4. Science: Medical and scientific knowledge should be made available without any biased selection of facts.

Criticism of books and learning materials should be submitted to the building Principal in writing on the "Citizen Request for Reconsideration of Learning Materials" form (see Appendix KEC-R). Unresolved allegations thus submitted will be considered by a committee composed of faculty that will be appointed by the Superintendent. Members of this committee will be knowledgeable in the subject-matter field of the book or material challenged, and the challenged book or material will be judged by the committee as to its conformity to the aforementioned principles. The book or material involved will be suspended pending a decision in writing by this committee. Appeals from this decision may be made through the Superintendent to the School Board for final decision.

Adopted: April 17, 1974
Revised: August 1, 2002