

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 the District'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 and classroom 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, the District shall recognize that parents hold an essential role in the education of their children and have the right to guide what their children read.

The District 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

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Prior to any material being selected for inclusion, a library material shall have been read, reviewed, and recommended for inclusion by the district-level library supervisor or individual(s) designated by that supervisor. If more support and/or resources are needed for this review, the Board may approve the engagement of a cooperative of other Texas public schools and rely upon the recommendation of that cooperative.

~~Approved by: _____, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, _____, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, _____, Director of Library Services, _____, Board of Education, _____, Superintendent~~

The selection and acquisition of the digital library collection will follow the same policies and procedures as the physical library collection. The district 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, District 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. District participation in TexQuest is voluntary. TexQuest is supported by the Texas Legislature and by participation fees paid by school districts and open enrollment charter schools. TSLAC administers all aspects of the TexQuest program and coordinates with districts on the implementation and management of any TexQuest resources the district 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 District student or any District resident may formally challenge library material used in the District'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 District-level library supervisor. The conference may also include other necessary staff members as deemed appropriate by district-level library personnel.

If the complainant wishes to file a formal request for reconsideration, a copy of the "Request for Reconsideration of Library

Materials" form shall be provided to the complainant by district-level library supervisor or appropriate administrator. The following shall apply:

1. All formal concerns regarding library materials shall be submitted on the form provided by the District and shall submit the completed and signed form to district-level library supervisor or designated administrator.
2. The District-level 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 both district and campus-level 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.
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