

BOOK AND MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

The Sunapee School Board is legally responsible for all matters relating to the operation of the Sunapee schools. The responsibility for the selection of instructional materials is delegated to the professionally trained personnel employed by the school system.

Objectives

The primary objective of a school library or resource center is to implement, enrich and support the educational program of the school. Needs of the individual school based on knowledge of the curriculum, teacher and student needs, and of the existing collection are given first consideration.

Criteria for Selection

1. Books and other instructional materials shall be selected on the basis of:
 - a. overall purpose
 - b. timeliness or permanence
 - c. importance of subject matter
 - d. quality of the writing/production
 - e. readability and popular appeal
 - f. authoritativeness
 - g. reputation of the publisher/producer
 - h. reputation and significance of the author/artist composer/producer
 - i. format and price

2. Consideration shall be given to:
 - a. needs of the individual school based on knowledge of the curriculum and requests from administrators and teachers
 - b. needs of the individual student based on knowledge of children and youth and requests of parents and students
 - c. provision of materials of high artistic quality •
 - d. provision of materials with superior format
 - e. choosing materials for values of interest and the enlightenment of all students of the community. A book shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality or the political or religious views of the writer.
 - f. providing materials presenting all points of view concerning international, national, and local problems and issues of our times; books or other materials of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Controversial materials
 - a. Religion--factual, unbiased material which represents all major religions should be included in the library collection.
 - b. Ideologies--the library should make available basic factual information on the level of its reading public, on any ideology or philosophy which exerts strong force, either favorably or unfavorably in government, current events, politics, education, or any other phase of life.
 - c. Sex and profanity--Materials presenting accents on sex should be subjected to a stern test of literary merit and reality, taking into consideration the reading public. The fact of sexual incidents or profanity appearing should not automatically disqualify a book. The decision should be made on the basis of whether the book presents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with, and whether the book is of literary value. Factual material of an educational nature on the level of the reading public should be included in the school collection.
 - d. Science--Medical and scientific knowledge should be made available without any biased selection of facts.

Challenged Materials

If a complaint is made, the procedures will be as follows:

1. Criticisms of books or other instructional materials in the library or classroom should be submitted in writing to the Principal. A form for the criticism is available in the School Office.
2. Allegations thus submitted will be considered by a committee of three appointed by the principal. The challenged book or material will be judged by the committee within thirty (30) days as to its conformity to the above stated principles.
3. The books or materials involved will be suspended pending a decision in writing by the above committee. A copy of the committee's report will be made available to all concerned.
4. Appeals from this decision may be made through the Superintendent to the School Board.

First Reading: June 3, 2003
Second Reading & Approval: July 8, 2003
Reviewed: August 6, 2014