

# **FY25 COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

## **Crosspointe Elementary**

### **FY25 Collection Development Policy**

**Nicolette Vassilakis  
Educational Media Specialist**

## Signature Page

**Crosspointe Elementary School**  
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**Media Specialist Signature:** Nicolette Vassilakis

**Principal Name:** Dr. Annmarie Dilbert

**Principal Signature:** Dr. Annmarie Dilbert

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## **Purpose of Collection Development Policy**

The purpose of the collection development plan is to guide the procurement of books for the media center and the resources we use. The media specialist analyzes the data of the collection obtained from completing inventory yearly. The data analyzed includes the number of books in collection, the average age of collection, the items per student, the balance between fiction and nonfiction, as well as the last time each book was checked out. The media specialist also keeps in mind the demographics of the student population as well as student interest when acquiring materials for the media center.

## **Background Statement & School Community**

Crosspointe STEM Elementary School is a title one school with a population of approximately 684 students. 94 percent of our students are economically disadvantaged, 91 percent minority rate, and 30 percent are ELL. Students, staff, administrators, and community members work together to continue our school promise of being Green and to facilitate learning opportunities that continue to build environmentally active students. Students continually recycle, look for ways to conserve energy, and strive to help educate everyone involved.

Crosspointe Elementary School is currently recognized as an AVID school. AVID's mission is to equip underserved students with the skills and support needed for academic achievement and it aligns with our commitment to fostering resilience, determination, and a college-bound mindset in our school community. AVID provides students with academic support systems such as tutorials, strategies, goal setting, and mentoring, which enhance their learning outcomes and prepares them for a global community. AVID provides training for all Crosspointe Elementary teachers as well in order to achieve academic excellence. Through AVID's rigorous curriculum and emphasis on critical thinking skills, collaboration, and goal setting, students develop the academic resilience needed to overcome challenges and excel in their studies.

Our STEM focused school incorporates project-based learning, where students ask questions, create solutions to real world problems, and use innovative strategies to create new ideas by building, researching, and using trial and error methods to master the skills traditionally taught in elementary school. Our goal is to open the eyes of young children to the sciences and help them to use their imagination to learn about the various career opportunities that can materialize from a continued focus in STEM.

## **Mission Statement**

Crosspointe's mission is to provide leadership, support, and resources to students that will allow for the design and implementation of an effective strategy rich environment across all academic areas to ensure college and career readiness. Our focus will be to provide a challenging learning environment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Math, which maximizes individual potential and ensures students are well-equipped to meet the challenges in the world around them. We will also have students that are able to make well-reasoned, thoughtful, and healthy lifelong decisions in an ever-changing world. We further believe that all students can learn and be successful, and we will provide proper instruction in a supportive environment to meet this goal.

Crosspointe Elementary will increase parental participation in school-related activities. Technology will be infused into the curriculum and available to all teachers and students. Crosspointe Elementary will have a technology proficient staff and student body with relevance to instructional strategies whole serving the students in the least restrictive environment.

### **Media Center Mission Statement**

Crosspointe Elementary will provide and promote instruction to prepare students to become independent users of our library. The library media program provides users with diverse information, resources and skills to access, process and apply information to problems and decisions, thereby helping them to make meaning of a changing world. Our mission also is to maintain education services, books, technology, and resources that enable all members of the school community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information. The library media staff of Crosspointe Elementary is committed to providing resources, instructions, and technology for the development of intellectual, social, and physical growth of our student formation literacy skills of the 21st century.

The Library Media staff will provide a rich environment that will:

- provide STEM Activities to encourage students to uses their thinking skills to creatively find solutions to problems;
- provide curriculum/pleasure reading resources in multiple formats to meet the need of all students;
- stimulate intellectual curiosity;
- encourage pleasure reading;
- Provide resources to meet the diverse population
- Provide technology instruction
- Promote the need for all users to become a self-sufficient library user and to instill the joy of reading.

## **Responsibility for Collection Management & Development**

### **Purpose of Collection Development Policy**

SDPBC Policy 8.12 (6.a) stipulates: "Each school shall, in conjunction with the "Library Bill of Rights" of the American Library Association (ALA) and District policy, establish procedures for the evaluation, selection, management, and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this policy and Policy 8.1205 and shall record such in the school's collection development policy." The school board's collection development policy drives AMES selection, evaluation, and maintenance of the resources available to our students and faculty. With that being said, we encourage our faculty and students to provide input into the selection of our materials.

### **School Community**

Crosspointe STEM Elementary School is a title one school with a population of approximately 656 students. 93 percent of our students are economically disadvantaged and a 92 percent minority rate. Crosspointe STEM is proud to be a Green School of Quality. Students, staff, administrators, and community members work together to continue our school promise of being Green and to facilitate learning opportunities that continue to build environmentally active students. Students continue their recycling efforts throughout the school, help educate everyone involved, and look for more ways to conserve energy.

Our STEM focused school incorporates project-based learning, where students ask questions, create solutions to real world problems, and use innovative strategies to create new ideas by building, researching, and using trial and error to master the skills traditionally taught in elementary school. Our goal is to open the eyes of young boys and girls to the sciences and help them to use their imagination to learn about all the various career opportunities that can materialize from a continued focus in STEM.

### **Library Program**

At Crosspointe Elementary, the Library Media Specialist will compose library media lessons based on the American Library Association. The lessons are designed to be collaborative lessons with emphasis on supporting the Information and Media Literacy and the Florida State Standards. Students rotate through the Media Center on a daily basis as part of the Fine Arts wheel. Each class has thirty minutes to either check out books, participate in a Media lesson, Coding exercises via the computer lab located in the media center, or work in our Makerspace area which consists of various materials to build, use the 3D computers to practice our current Science Standards, tinker with our 3D printers or participate in STEM challenges.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To increase the overall age of publication of the Crosspointe Elementary Collection.

\*Objective 1: Continue to weed and replace outdated materials, focusing on Fiction for the 2024-2025 school year.

\*Objective 2: To weed materials based on the significance to the reader, focusing on materials that have NOT been circulating, or have not circulated for a long time.

Goal 2: To extend the Makerspace choices for students including more robotics, coding, and circuits.

\*Objective 1: Continue to write grants for funding of the more expensive MakerSpace materials.

\*Objective 2: To select the most innovative products to add to our MakerSpace area so that our budget is truly maximized.

Goal 3: Grow the MackinVia eBook Collection at CPE.

\*Objective 1: Purchase up-to-date eBooks that relate to the culture, interests, and needs of the student population.

\*Objective2: Use data from the needs assessment to inform MackinVia eBook selections

## Budget and Funding

<i>School Based Operating Budget</i>	<i>Budget FY24</i>	<i>FY25 Projected Budget</i>
<i>Account 55110 - Media Supplies</i>	\$795	\$795
<i>Account 553420 - Media Subscriptions</i>	\$	\$
<i>Account 561100 - Media Books</i>	\$857	\$857
<i>Account 562230 - Media A/V Equipment</i>	\$857	\$857
<b><i>Fundraising/ Grants</i></b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	
<i>Media Center Internal Account number (get this from your bookkeeper)</i>	\$362.55	\$142.04
<b><i>State Media Allocation</i></b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	
<i>Account 556110 (program 3070) - Media Books</i>	\$1510	\$1510



## Purchasing Plan 2024-2025

<b>Approximate Purchasing Plan</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Books	2375
Supplies	750
Robotics for STEM	500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,625</b>

### Scope of the Collection

The collection development is guided by the curriculum and the guidelines of the School District of Palm Beach County, which in turn are governed by the State of Florida Department of Education. The Dewey Decimal Classification System, according to best practices for school libraries in the United States, is used to arrange the print and non-print collections at Crosspointe Elementary. District-wide electronic information and database subscriptions are provided by the SDPBC. Through affiliation with the public library system, the Crosspointe Library Media Center can provide to the patron's resources beyond the walls of its building and throughout the state of Florida. This is made possible through the access of interlibrary loan. The SDPBC Library Media Services provides support to school library media center personnel and establishes uniform policies and procedures for school library media centers throughout the district. These services include, but are not limited to:

- maintaining a professional library collection to assist with re-certification and knowledge acquisition on education-related topics.
- managing the online catalog including the library inventory and circulation software.
- selecting and making accessible online information databases for reference and research.
- providing guidance and training to school library media staff in program planning, curriculum development, budget, technology, collection maintenance, facility use and media production.
- participating in inter-departmental curriculum development, facility planning, personnel staffing, and task forces at the administrative level.
- manage technical services for acquiring and processing resources for schools; and
- distribute to schools and monitor categorical and capital budgets allocated for library programs.

Library Media Services works in collaboration with the Department of Educational Technology to provide selected electronic information, technology to access it, and the training needed to search and find specific facts efficiently and effectively.

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In accordance with school board policy 8.12 the library media center collection will be based on reader interest, support of state academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty.

The materials selected for schools are intended to support instruction, promote reading, further the pursuit of knowledge through research and exploration, and provide information literacy experiences of educational significance for class groups, individual students, teachers and administrators. Within budgetary constraints, the intent is to provide an adequate number and range of library media materials and resources in a variety of formats that are appropriate, timely, and essential to the attainment of specified educational objectives subject to District policy and State law. Library media materials are to represent the diverse cultures, ethnic groups, languages and religious beliefs of the community and that are free of bias, stereotypes, distortions, and prejudices. Within budgetary constraints, collections shall contain a comprehensive collection of materials and equipment, in a variety of media formats that are accessible to students during the school day.

Per District policy, the collection will be arranged in standard Dewey order.

## **Equipment**

The Media Center is truly the hub of our school. The media center is home to a computer lab with 25 computers. We also have a production room with all the necessary equipment to have live morning announcements daily run by 4th and 5th grade students and overseen by the media specialist.

Teacher's may access any of the books from the media center, the resource room, and the professional library at any time. Our work room contains 2 copiers, die cut machines, and paper cutters. The media specialist's office contains the color poster printer as well as the laminator.

Since we are a STEM school, the media center is home to our STEM Lab as well. It contains a Makerspace with all of the materials you could think of for various projects and experiments. We also have I Pads, Osmos, Dot and Dash Robots, Robotic Mice, and Ozzobots.

The teacher work room contains many materials that teachers can use for STEM projects and science experiments for all of the Big Ideas. Some of these include STEM

games/projects, droppers, thermometers, measuring cups, spoons, spring scales, magnets, Lego education robots, items to complete circuits (tape, wires, batteries), rock and mineral collections, sand, clay, soil, and seeds. Everything is labeled and organized so that teachers can come and take the items they need at any time.

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### **Collection Development**

SDPBC Policy 8.12 (6.a) stipulates: "Each school shall, in conjunction with the "Library Bill of Rights" (<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/index.cfm>) of the American Library Association (ALA) and District policy, establish procedures for the evaluation, selection, management, and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this policy and Policy 2.1205 and shall record such in the school's collection development policy."

Crosspointe Library Media Center Staff will use this Collection Development Policy as a guideline in the selection, acquisition, evaluation, and maintenance of library media center materials. This document will be updated as changes occur in the curriculum, informational needs, programming, and policies.

Library Media Center staff responsibility continues with meeting the reading, reference and research needs of the student body and faculty in an age of information abundance. The Department of K-12 Instructional Material and Library Media Services maintain the electronic catalog of resources which is available 24 hours each day to students, faculty, and parents. Research and reference materials are available at all times through the district-wide electronic subscription databases.

### **Selection and Evaluation Criteria**

Materials considered for purchase are selected based on the criteria established in

SDPBC 8.21 (6.d)

- " In conjunction with the selection criteria above, library media specialists, teachers and administrators at each school location shall evaluate and select print and non- print materials for the library media center using several of the criteria outlined below, as appropriate for the media type. However, in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 847.012, criteria "xvi" and "xvii" below (relating to obscenity and copyright) must meet two of the criteria used in the evaluation of all materials.
- PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS. – Print or non-print media including video footage that have been favorably reviewed by two or more professional sources such as a School Library

Journal, Horn Book, Booklist, and/or Children's Catalog.

- EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. -- Material is valuable to an individual course of study or to the library media collection.

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- APPROPRIATENESS. -- Material is geared to the age, maturity, diverse interests, and learning levels of students for whom it is intended. Reading levels and Lexile's are considered to provide a range of material that challenges the student and guides their selection process.

- ACCURACY. -- Nonfiction information is correct, recent, and objective.

- LITERARY MERIT. -- Fiction that has a noteworthy plot, setting, characterization, style, and theme.

- SCOPE. -- Content is covered adequately to achieve its intended purpose.

- AUTHORITY. -- The author, editor, or producer has a superior reputation for producing materials of this nature.

- SPECIAL FEATURES. -- The item has maps, charts, graphs, glossaries, and/or other learning aids that support the content, are unique or are valuable.

- TRANSLATION INTEGRITY. -- Material translated from one language to another maintains the stylistic characteristics of the original.

- ARRANGEMENT. -- Concepts are presented in a logical sequence and in a way that assures learning.

- TREATMENT. -- Typeset, visuals, style, and/or medium captures and holds the student's attention.

- TECHNICAL QUALITY. -- Sound is clear and audible; visuals project clearly.

- AESTHETIC QUALITY. -- Material is superior to similar items in attractiveness and presentation of content.

- POTENTIAL DEMAND. -- Item has timeliness or popular appeal.

- DURABILITY. -- Material has the potential for frequent use or is of a nature that it will be

considered consumable.

■ OBSCENITY. -- No books or other material containing hard-core pornography or otherwise prohibited by Fla. Stat. § 847.012 shall be used.

■ COPYRIGHT. -- Supplemental instructional materials and library media materials used in a school shall be procured and used in accordance with federal, state and District copyright laws, rules, and policies as referenced in School Board Policy 8.121.] \*\*

Media Center materials are selected based upon many factors. The materials are evaluated as to their aesthetic, literary and social value, appropriateness to student age and emotional maturity and relevance to the curriculum. Media Center materials reflect sensitivity to the achievements, needs, and rights of men and women, various ethnic groups, and other cultures. The selection of media center materials about political theories and ideologies, religion, public issues, and controversial topics is directed toward maintaining a balanced representation with various opinions.

## **District-Wide "Procedures for Selecting and Developing Library Collections"**

### **Who Makes the Selection:**

1. Each book made available to students through this School District's library media centers must be selected by a school district employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate, regardless of whether the book is purchased, donated, or otherwise made available to students.
2. Further, employees holding a valid educational media specialist certificate must also have completed the required Florida Department of Education training currently available as incorporated in State Board of Education Rule 6A-7.0715. The training must be completed annually.
3. In addition, the person selecting the books is employed at that school location or if a qualified person is not employed at the school, by another District employee with these qualifications.
4. For resources needing additional review by District Library Media Services, school-based certified library media specialists or principal designee will use PBSB 2671 to solicit additional input.

5. Consultation with stakeholders is required, which is accomplished by the following, after a media specialist review:
  - a. Any community stakeholders may provide consultation on selections via the list of LMS Selections for the current school year at Active Book Orders.
  - b. On the date of the requested purchase or acceptance of library media center materials, the District will provide an email or text notice to current members of the Board's Academic Advisory Committee (Board Policy 1.097). The message will state that there are new materials under consideration, the link to find the list of materials, the request that the list be reviewed, and the deadline(s) for submitting questions or comments.
  - c. The members will be asked to provide comments to the District email address below and to send the information to persons in the community who are not committee members. In addition, there will be a standing item on this committee's agenda for all meetings relating to input on the new materials under consideration.
  - d. Stakeholders with questions, comments, or concerns are directed to the following email address, librarymediaservices@palmbeachschools.org, to send their feedback for review by the District Library Media Services for consideration.
  - e. Selections may be purchased or accepted 72 hours after posting for book fair materials and two weeks after posting for all other purchases or donations. If a concern is raised about any item on an order, that order may be discussed at an Academic Advisory Committee meeting or reviewed and considered by District staff.

**Criteria for Selection:**

1. The primary objective of the library media center" is to "implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. The library media center shall provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and with the representation of different points of view."
2. Book selections must meet the criteria in s. 1006.40(3) (d)."<sup>1</sup>
3. In developing library media center collections consultation with reputable,

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<sup>1</sup> This Statute states that the materials must be: "1. Free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012 [harmful to minors]. 2. Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented and 3. Appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used or made available." The District shall rely on any State Board of Education Rules, to determine what is age appropriate.

See SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, in the Library Media Training, for a description of what constitutes Materials Prohibited by Fla. Stat. § 847.012 (harmful to minors). Sexual conduct is defined in Fla. Stat. § 847.001(19).

SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, in the training for media specialists, "it must be clear that a book depicting nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement does not meet the tenets of "Harmful to minors" (s. 847.001, F.S.), which are: (a) Predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest; (b) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors; and (c) Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

professionally recognized reviewing periodicals is required. These periodicals are print or non-print media including video footage that has been favorably reviewed by two or more professional sources, such as a School Library Journal, Horn Book, Booklist, Association for Library Service to Children, Kirkus, Young Adult Library Services Association, and/or Children's Catalog.

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4. Additionally, "In the selection of ...library media, and other reading material used in the public school system, the standards used to determine the propriety of the material shall include:
  - a. The age of the students who normally could be expected to have access to the material.
  - b. The educational purpose to be served by the material. Priority shall be given to the selection of materials that align with the state academic standards as provided for in s. 1003.41 and include the instructional objectives contained within the curriculum frameworks for career and technical education and adult and adult general education adopted by rule of the State Board of Education under s. 1004.92.
  - c. The degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction as part of a normal classroom instructional program.
  - d. The consideration of the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the students of this state."
5. Further, schools shall:
  - a. "Choose materials that address the reading levels, special curricular needs and programs of your school/district."
  - b. Evaluate school academic organizational needs to include, but not be limited to:  
School mission and vision; School performance or improvement plan; Specialized curriculum needs such as those for career or technical courses; School population needs such as exceptional student education (ESE), gifted and English language learners (ELL); and material to supplement the state-approved, district-adopted core curriculum.
  - c. Factors to consider for any material include avoiding unsolicited theories that may lead to student indoctrination.
6. Library media center collections, including classroom libraries, will be based on reader interest, support of state academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty.
7. Selection should include: "consider titles from state standards booklists such as the ELA B.E.S.T. Sample texts and the Civic Literacy Reading List, and that selection "should consider the consultation of crowd-sourced reviews."
8. Subject to the required statutory criteria stated above, the following additional selection criteria may be considered if not contrary to and are consistent with Florida law requirements stated above:
  - a. A choice of materials that support the instructional program and promote reading shall be available to students and professional staff to allow for varying achievement levels, interests, and teaching/learning styles. Each

school shall, in conjunction with the "Library Bill of Rights" (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>) of the American Library Association ("ALA"), State Statute, and District policy, establish procedures for the evaluation, selection, management, and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this policy and Policy 8.1205 and shall record such in the school's collection development plan.

- b. The "Library Bill of Rights" referenced herein is to be used as a suggested guideline. To the extent that there are inconsistencies between the guidelines in the "Library Bill of Rights" and State Statute, or District policy, State Statute and District policy shall take precedence and shall govern the selection, retention and disposition criteria of library media materials for library media centers and classrooms.
- c. Selection of materials shall also be consistent with the provisions in the School Board's collective bargaining agreement with CTA relating to academic freedom and responsibilities--Article II, Section K--to the extent those provisions are applicable.
- d. The materials selected for schools are intended to support instruction, promote reading, further the pursuit of knowledge through research and exploration, and provide information literacy experiences of educational significance for class groups, individual students, teachers and administrators. Within budgetary constraints, the intent is to provide an adequate number and range of library media materials and resources in a variety of formats that are appropriate, timely, and essential to the attainment of specified educational objectives subject to District policy and State law. Library media materials are to represent the diverse cultures, ethnic groups, languages, and religious beliefs of the community and are free of bias, stereotypes, distortions, and prejudices.
- e. Within budgetary constraints, collections shall contain a comprehensive collection of materials and equipment, in a variety of media formats that are accessible to students during the school day, to:
  - i. Promote the development of lifelong reading habits and information literacy skills in students;
  - ii. Provide a broad background of information resources in areas of knowledge;
  - iii. Support the general educational goals of the District and the objectives of specific courses, including materials that represent diverse points of view in order that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical analysis of media and intellectual integrity in forming judgments;
  - iv. Meet the personal needs and interests of students, including materials that: nurture the development of recreational reading/listening/ viewing, cultural appreciation, and aesthetic values; represent the many religious, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groups in our society and reflect their contributions to the heritage and culture of our civilization; foster respect for the diverse roles available to women and men in today's society; and provide access to materials in heritage language as stipulated by the META agreement.
  - v. Support the professional needs of teachers and administrators; and
  - vi. Introduce new instructional technologies into the learning



environment.

- f. Other criteria that may be used in the selection process, again if not contrary to and are consistent with Florida law requirements, include:
- i. EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE -- Material is valuable to an individual course of study or to the library media collection; the degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction.
  - ii. APPROPRIATENESS -- Material is geared to the age, maturity, diverse interests, and learning levels of students for whom it is intended. Reading levels and Lexiles are considered to provide a range of material that challenges the student and guides their selection process.
  - iii. ACCURACY -- Nonfiction information is correct, recent, and objective.
  - iv. LITERARY MERIT -- Fiction that has a noteworthy plot, setting, characterization, style, and theme.
  - v. SCOPE -- Content is covered adequately to achieve its intended purpose.
  - vi. AUTHORITY -- The author, editor, or producer has a superior reputation for producing materials of this nature.
  - vii. SPECIAL FEATURES -- The item has maps, charts, graphs, glossaries, and/or other learning aids that support the content, are unique or are valuable.
  - viii. TRANSLATION INTEGRITY -- Material translated from one language to another maintains the stylistic characteristics of the original.
  - ix. ARRANGEMENT -- Concepts are presented in a logical sequence and in a way that assures learning.
  - x. TREATMENT -- Typeset, visuals, style, and/or medium capture and hold the student's attention.
  - xi. TECHNICAL QUALITY -- Sound is clear and audible; visuals project clearly.
  - xii. AESTHETIC QUALITY -- Material is superior to similar items in attractiveness and presentation of content.
  - xiii. POTENTIAL DEMAND -- Item has particular timeliness or popular appeal.
  - xiv. DURABILITY -- Material has the potential for frequent use or is of a nature that it will be considered consumable.
  - xv. COPYRIGHT -- Library media materials used in a school shall be procured and used in accordance with federal, state, and District copyright laws, rules, and policies as referenced in School Board Policy 8.121.
  - xvi. GRAPHIC NOVELS AND PERIODICALS -- In addition to the above criteria, all pictures are to be reviewed for appropriateness prior to placing the graphic novel or periodicals into circulation.

**Removal of Materials:**

1. Library Media Materials are subject to regular removal or discontinuance of books based on, at a minimum, physical condition, rate of recent circulation, alignment to state academic standards and relevance to curriculum, out-of date content, and required removal as stated within School Board Policy 8.1205 Objection Procedures for Specific Library Media Center, Classroom Library, Reading List, Supplemental or Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board Adoption Process. This Policy states the basis for asserting objections as well as the process for asserting them, starting with an informal writing stating the objection to the school and if dissatisfied with the result, filing with the school a formal objection with the form on the District's website, and, then an appeal process to the Superintendent and the School Board.
2. In addition to regular review, removal, or discontinuance by a school library media specialist, the Superintendent or designee, even without an Objection or challenge, has the authority to remove library media materials based on statutory considerations. The basis for the removal shall be documented.

**Oversight for Compliance:**

1. School principals are responsible for overseeing compliance with school district procedures for selecting school library media center materials at the school to which they are assigned and notifying parents of the process for objecting to the use of specific materials.
2. Support toward compliance is available when the assigned school library media specialist(s) attend professional development/training hosted by the District Library Media Services.
3. Annually, the District requires using the selection criteria and the removal criteria referenced in these procedures to have library media specialists evaluate their collection in order to write a School Collection Development Plan to enhance their individual library programs that align to the District required components. They will share that plan with both their principal and District Library Media Services. Once the plan is approved, the school will post the school's plan on the school website. District Library Media Services will offer annual training on this process.

The School Collection Development Plan will include the School Mission Statement, Library Mission Statement, Purpose of the Collection Development Plan, School Community Description, Description of Your Library Program, Budget and Funding, Scope of Collection, Collection Development, Gifts and Donations, Collection Maintenance, Challenged Materials, and Goals and Objectives.

## **District Resources And Services**

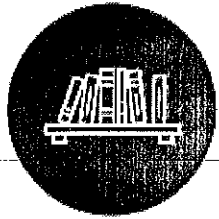

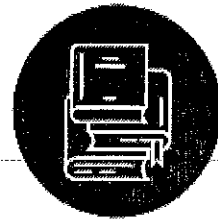

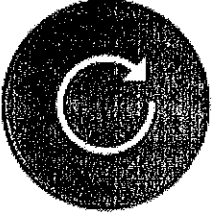
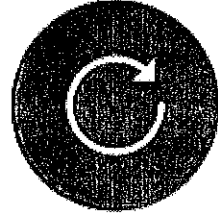
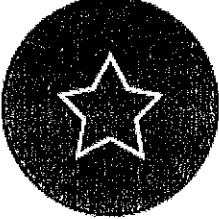
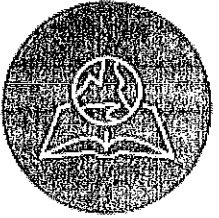
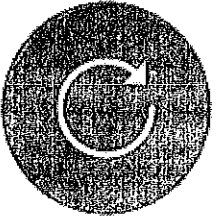
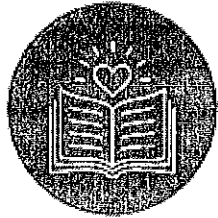
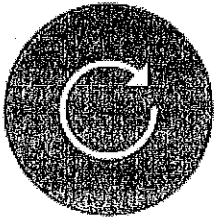
The School District Library Media Services provides support to school library-media center personnel and establishes uniform policies and procedures for school library media centers throughout the district. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining a professional library collection to assist with recertification and knowledge acquisition on education-related topics;
- Managing the online catalog including the library inventory and circulation software;
- Selecting and making accessible online information databases for reference and research;
- Providing guidance and training to school library media staff in program planning, curriculum development, budget, technology, collection maintenance, facility use and media production;
- Participating in inter-departmental curriculum development, facility planning, personnel staffing, and task forces at the administrative level;
- Managing technical services for acquiring and processing resources for schools;
- Distributing to schools and monitor categorical and capital budgets allocated for library programs
- Fostering a global range of services that facilitate the transformation of school-based library activities to meet the changing needs of an information society.

The School District Library Media Services works in collaboration with other district departments including the Department of Educational Technology to provide selected electronic information, technology to access it, and the training needed to search and find specific facts efficiently and effectively.

## **Collection Analysis**

The collection is developed for and influenced by students, their interests, academic needs and alignment to the curriculum. The data below is a snapshot of the collection based on a Titlewise Analysis.

			
<b>13,467</b> Items in the Collection	<b>20.1</b> Items per Student	<b>45%</b> Fiction Titles in the Collection	<b>51 %</b> Percent of nonfiction in the collection
Library media resources are curated to include both recently published works and classics that both rightfully impact the average age of the collection.			
	<b>2003</b> Average Age of the Collection	<b>73%</b> Aged Titles	<b>3%</b> Newer than 5 Years
Library media resources should be representative of the school.		Skills for Lifelong Learning (SLL) library media resources can contribute to character development.	
			
<b>4,774</b> Representative Titles in Collection	<b>2003</b> Representative Titles Average Age	<b>4,018</b> SLL Titles in Collection	<b>2004</b> SLL Titles Average Age

## Collection Analysis By Category

The information collected in this section provides a detailed look at the current library collection by classification and genre. The information was gathered from Follett Destiny, the library management system, and Titlewave, the vendor's ordering and analysis tool.

Section	# of Titles	Average Age (year)
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Computer Science, Information & General Works	136	2006
Philosophy & Psychology	75	2005
Religion	71	2000
Social Sciences	1,206	2000
Language	151	2001
Science	1,570	2003
Technology	798	2002
Arts & Recreation	661	2006
Literature	284	2000
History & Geography	891	2001
Biography	955	2005
Easy	3,605	2002
General Fiction	2,420	2004
Graphic Novels		

## Gifts and Donations

Any books gifted or donated to the school must meet the same selection criteria as all other materials. No materials will be added to the collection if they are out-of-date or age-inappropriate simply because they were donated. All gifts and donations must follow the same processes as new book orders.

## Collection Maintenance

SDPBC Policy 8.12 (6.a) stipulates: "Each school shall, in conjunction with the "Library Bill of Rights" (<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/index.cfm>) of the American Library Association (ALA) and District policy, establish procedures for the evaluation, selection, management, and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this policy and Policy 2.1205 and shall record such in the school's collection development policy."

Crosspointe Library Media Center Staff will use this Collection Development Policy as a guideline in the selection, acquisition, evaluation, and maintenance of library media center materials. This document will be updated as changes occur in the

curriculum, informational needs, programming, and policies.

The Library Media Staff primary function is the acquisition and maintenance of the Library Media materials. To enrich and to support the students' educational experiences, the Library Media Staff responsibilities under the Collection Development and Management Policy must be followed. This policy refers to the process of building and maintaining the library's entire materials collection, in print, non-print, audio visual and electronic formats. The process includes the formulation of policy and procedures, budget allocations, needs assessment, selection, collection maintenance and evaluation, de-selection, and resource sharing. We must support the needs of our school community and follow the recommended boundaries set by the mission and goals of the School District of Palm Beach County, ALNAASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner and Technology Standards (NETS).

### Lost or Damaged Library Materials

When textbooks, library books, or other instructional materials are assigned to a student and materials are lost or damaged, the parent is financially responsible. F.S. § 1006.42 Failure to pay for lost or damaged textbooks may result in the student's suspension from extracurricular activities or a requirement that the student perform community service equal to the value of the lost or damaged materials. Parental and student responsibility as to instructional materials, debts for loss, damage or destruction, and accountability procedures, including debt collection efforts by the District, are set forth in P-8.1225.

### Strategic Focus – Weeding and Acquisitions

School Year	Strategic Focus
2024-2025	<b>Selection Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Fiction Section and SSYRA</li> <li>• Increasing the reading level of the books in the media center</li> <li>• Increase the number of coding/robotic activities</li> </ul>
	<b>Inventory/ Weeding Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non fiction based on Collection analysis</li> <li>• Biographies &gt;5 years old</li> </ul>
2025-2026	<b>Selection Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non fiction based on age of collection</li> <li>• Biographies based on age of books</li> <li>• Increase the number of coding/robotic activities</li> </ul>
	<b>Inventory/ Weeding Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiction based on Collection development plan</li> <li>• Non fiction sciences sections</li> <li>• Easy books based on number of circulation</li> </ul>
2026-2027	<b>Selection Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease the age of Easy section</li> <li>• Decrease the age of Fiction section</li> <li>• Increase the number of coding/robotic activities</li> </ul>
	<b>Inventory/ Weeding Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy section</li> <li>• Eliminate all paperback books</li> </ul>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weeding books older than 10 years</li></ul> |
|--|---|

## **Reconsideration of Materials**

SDPBC Policy 8.1225 outlines the responsibilities of students, parents and teachers for lost or damaged Instructional Materials. Students, parents and teachers are held accountable for lost or damaged material. Crosspointe Library Media Center does not set fines for overdue materials.

Per Florida Statute governing Instructional Materials, instructional material stored in the library media center must be inventoried annually. To facilitate the circulation and inventory process, Destiny Library Manager Software has been made available to all schools. Each year, Crosspointe Library Media Center will perform a full inventory- except for the equipment.

## **Annual Evaluation and Revision of CDP**

This collection development plan will be reviewed each school year.

## Appendix A: Library Bill of Rights

### LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

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The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting the abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939.

Amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; and January 23, 1980;

inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council



## Appendix B: Intellectual Freedom Statement

### INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

#### AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION THE FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*
2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*
3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*
4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*
5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*
6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*
7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, July 12, 2000, June 30, 2004, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.

First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution CONGRESS  
SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR  
PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM  
OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY  
TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF  
GRIEVANCES.

The Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791 Endorsed  
by the Board of Library Trustees: August 24, 2009, October 22, 2012, August 22, 2016

## Appendix C: Policy 8.12 - Selection of Library Media Center Materials, Classroom Library Materials, and Reading List Materials



Book	School Board Policies
Section	Ch. 8. Curriculum and Instruction
Title	Selection of Library Media Center Materials and Reading List Materials
Code	8.12
Status	Active
Adopted	November 14, 2023
Last Revised	December 27, 2022
Last Reviewed	November 14, 2023
Prior Revised Dates	2/18/72; 4/6/83; 2/20/85; 6/16/99; 5/7/2008; 1/24/2018; 12/27/2022; 11/14/2023

### Policy 8.12 - Selection of Library Media Center Materials, Classroom Library Materials, and Reading List Materials

1. Per SBE Rule: 6A-7.0715, "The primary objective of the library media center" is to "implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. The library media center shall provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and with the representation of different points of view."
2. **Adequate Library Media Materials** -- Library media materials for the school's Library Media Center, including print, non-print, serials [periodicals], electronic resources, computer software, video images, films, and instructional television programs, represent fundamental resources selected for schools to support instruction, promote reading, further the pursuit of knowledge through research and exploration, and provide information literacy experiences of educational significance for class groups, individual students, teachers, and administrators. It is the shared responsibility of the State, District, and school, within budgetary constraints, to provide an adequate number and range of library media materials and resources in a variety of formats that are appropriate, timely, and essential to the attainment of specified educational objectives subject to District policy and State law. It is also the responsibility of the State and District and school to

provide library media materials that represent the diverse cultures, ethnic groups, languages, and religious beliefs of the community and that are free of bias, stereotypes, distortions, and prejudices.

3. Per HB 5101 (2023), which created this definition in Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (1) (a) 3, ~~“Library media center means any collection of books, eBooks, periodicals, or videos maintained and accessible on the site of a school, including in classrooms.”~~
4. **Reading List Materials** -- Reading list materials are recommended or assigned materials school-wide or grade level.
5. **Purpose** -- The Board believes that the selection of library media materials and reading list materials is within its jurisdiction pursuant to relevant statutes, rules, and constitutional provisions. The library media center, within budgetary constraints, shall contain a comprehensive collection of materials and equipment, in a variety of media formats that are accessible to students during the school day, to:
  - a. Promote the development of lifelong reading habits and information literacy skills in students.
  - b. Provide a broad background of information resources in areas of knowledge.
  - c. Support the general educational goals of the District and the objectives of specific courses, including materials that represent diverse points of view in order that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical analysis of media and intellectual integrity in forming judgments.
  - d. Meet the personal needs and interests of students, including materials that: nurture the development of recreational reading/listening/viewing, cultural appreciation, and aesthetic values; represent the many religious, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groups in our society and reflect their contributions to the heritage and culture of our civilization; foster respect for the diverse roles available to women and men in today's society; and provide access to materials in heritage language as stipulated by the META agreement.
  - e. Support the professional needs of teachers and administrators.
  - f. Introduce new instructional technologies into the learning environment.
6. **Choice** -- Library media materials are available to students and staff as optional resources and are usually not mandatory reading as is the case with textbook instructional materials.
  - a. Library media that is sensitive or mature may not be appropriate for all readers in a school but remains a part of the collection to address the needs of some of the reading community if it meets the selection criteria of the school. Educators and library media specialists should be sensitive to the reading level, belief system, interest level, and maturity level of students when helping make selections for individuals, reading aloud to groups, or when having whole-class participation in a reading project.
  - b. If a parent or adult student states a reasonable objection to library reading material assigned to a class, comparable instruction will be made available for the student through an alternate reading assignment without penalty.

7. **Use of Library Media Materials Allocation** -- School principals are responsible for ensuring that operating budget and state funds are used to purchase library media materials that reinforce instruction and stimulate leisure reading for the students enrolled at the grade level(s) for which the materials are designed and to effectively communicate to parents the manner in which materials are used to implement the curriculum of the school under Fla. Stat. § 1006.40.
8. **Management of Library Media Materials** -- Following practice and precedent, the school library media centers in Palm Beach County will arrange media and materials according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Library media materials acquired with funds from the General Appropriation Act of the State of Florida are to be cataloged and inventoried as part of the library media collection. Library media materials may be inventoried in one-to-three-year cycles.
9. **Selection**-- Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 provides selection requirements.
  - a. Initial Review Process
    - i. "Each book made available to students through a school district library media center or included in a recommended or assigned school or grade-level reading list must be selected by a school district employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate, who has completed the required training provided by the State, regardless of whether the book is purchased, donated, or otherwise made available to students." This training must be completed annually (SBE Rule 6A- 7.0715).  
Employees holding a valid educational media specialist certificate (with the required FDOE in the Library Media Training) at each school location, or if a qualified person is not employed at the school, by another District employee with these qualifications, shall evaluate and select print and non- print materials for the library media center using criteria outlined below, as appropriate for the media type. Per SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, "School librarians, educational media specialists and other persons employed by a school district who are involved in the selection of school district library materials must complete the online training, entitled Library Media Training, before selecting library materials." These persons must complete this training before reviewing and selecting age-appropriate materials, reading list materials, and library resources.
    - ii. For resources needing additional review by District Library Media Services, school-based certified library media specialists or principal designee will use PBSD 2671, attached hereto and incorporated as part of this policy, to solicit additional input.
  - b. SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, in the Library Media Training, contains information describing what is considered pornography and harmful to minors. Sexual conduct is defined in Fla. Stat. § 847.001(19).
  - c. Additionally, as stated in Fla. Stat. § 1006.34 (2) (b)," In the selection of ...library media, and other reading material used in the public school system, the standards used to determine the propriety of the material shall include:
    - i. The age of the students who normally could be expected to have access to the material.
    - ii. The educational purpose to be served by the material. Priority shall be given to the selection of materials that align with the state academic standards as provided for in s. 1003.41 and include the

instructional objectives contained within the curriculum frameworks for career and technical education and adult and adult general education adopted by rule of the State Board of Education under s. 1004.92.

- iii. The degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction as part of a normal classroom instructional program.
- iv. The consideration of the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the students of this state.

Any instructional material containing pornography or otherwise prohibited by s. 847.012 may not be used or made available within any public school.

- d. "SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, in the in the Library Media Training, also states:
- i. "Choose materials that address the reading levels, special curricular needs, and programs of your school/district."
  - ii. Evaluate school academic organizational needs to include, but not be limited to: School mission and vision; School performance or improvement plan; Specialized curriculum needs such as those for career or technical courses; School population needs such as exceptional student education (ESE), gifted and English language learners (ELL); and Material to supplement the state-approved, district-adopted core curriculum.
  - iii. Factors to consider for any material include Avoiding unsolicited theories that may lead to student indoctrination.
- e. The School Board has adopted "procedures for developing library media center collections" and shall "post the procedures" on each school's website within the District.
- f. Each elementary school<sup>1</sup> must "publish on its website, in a searchable format prescribed by the [Florida Department of Education (FDOE)], a list of all materials maintained and accessible in the school library media center or a classroom library or required as part of a school or grade-level reading list."
- g. Per HB 1069 (2023) in Fla. Stat. § 1006.28, the School Board "shall adopt and publish on its website the process for a parent to limit his or her student's access to materials in the school or classroom library."
- h. Per Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2) (d), these procedures for developing library media center collections must and do:
- i. "Require that book selections meet the criteria in s. 1006.40(3) (d)."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The District relies on the definitions of an "elementary school" and "elementary school grade level" as stated in SBER 6A-7.0713 Elementary School Website Listing of Library Materials and Reading Lists.

<sup>2</sup> Former Fla. Stat. §1006.40(3)(d) now (c) states that the materials must be:

"1. Free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012 [harmful to minors]. 2. Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented and 3. Appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used or made available."

The District shall rely on any State Board of Education Rules, to determine what is age appropriate. See SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, in the Library Media Training, for a description of what constitutes Materials Prohibited by Fla. Stat. § 847.012 (harmful to minors). Sexual conduct is defined in Fla. Stat. § 847.001(19).

This Library Media Training also states: "it must be clear that a book depicting nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement does **not** meet the tenets of "Harmful to minors" (s. 847.001, F.S.), which are:

- (a) Predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest;
- (b) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors; and
- (c) Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

- ii. Require consultation of reputable, professionally recognized reviewing periodicals<sup>3</sup>, and school community stakeholders. <sup>4</sup>
- iii. "Provide for library media center collections, including classroom libraries, based on reader interest, support of state academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty."
- iv. "Provide for the regular removal or discontinuance of books based on, at a minimum, physical condition, rate of recent circulation, alignment to state academic standards and relevancy to curriculum, out-of-date content, and required removal pursuant to subparagraph (a) 2." <sup>5</sup>

In addition to regular review, removal, or discontinuance by a school library media specialist, the Superintendent or designee, even without an Objection or challenge, has the authority to remove library media materials or materials on reading lists based on statutory considerations. The basis for the removal shall be documented. Removal procedures regarding an Objection are based on Statute and/or School Board Policy 8.1205 Objection Procedures for Instructional Materials.

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<sup>3</sup> These periodicals are print or non-print media including video footage that have been favorably reviewed by two or more professional sources, , such as a School Library Journal, Horn Book, Booklist, Association for Library Service to Children, Kirkus, Young Adult Library Services Association, and/or Children's Catalog. Also, SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, in the in the Library Media Training, states to "consider titles from state standards booklists such as the ELA B.E.S.T. Sample texts and the Civic Literacy Reading List, and that selection "should consider the consultation of crowd- sourced reviews."

<sup>4</sup> Per SBE Rule 6A-7.0715, in the training for media specialists, stakeholders must include parents. Any community stakeholders may provide consultation on selections via the list of LMS Selections for the current school year at <http://l.sdpbc.net/luluc> then click on Active LMS Book Orders. On the date of the requested purchase or acceptance of library media center materials after media specialist review, the District will provide an email or text notice to current members of the Board's Academic Advisory Committee (Board Policy 1.097). The message will state that there are new materials under consideration, the link to find the list of materials, the request that the list be reviewed, and the deadline(s) for submitting questions or comments. The members will be asked to provide comments to the district email address below and to send the information to persons in the community who are not committee members. In addition, there will be a standing item on this committee's agenda for all meetings relating to input on the new materials under consideration. Stakeholders with questions, comments, or concerns are directed to the following email address: [librarymediaservices@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:librarymediaservices@palmbeachschools.org) , for sending their feedback to be reviewed by the District Library Media team for consideration. Selections may be purchased or accepted 72 hours after posting for book fair materials and two weeks after posting for all other purchases or donations. If a concern is raised about any item on an order, that order may be discussed at an Academic Advisory Committee meeting or reviewed and considered by District staff.

<sup>5</sup> Subparagraph (a) (2) relates to School Board Policy 8.1205 Objection Procedures for Library Media Materials, Supplemental Classroom Materials, Classroom Library Materials, and Reading Lists.



10. **Additional Selection Criteria**

- a. The following may be considered in the selection process but must be consistent with Florida law requirements stated above and in SBE Rule 6A-7.0715 Certifications and Plans for Instructional Materials and Library Media. Materials for use in school media centers or classroom library collections shall be carefully selected subject to the requirements stated above in Paragraph 9.
- b. A choice of materials that support the instructional program and promote reading shall be available to students and professional staff to allow for varying achievement levels, interests, and teaching/learning styles. Each school shall, in conjunction with the "Library Bill of Rights" (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>) of the American Library Association ("ALA"), State Statute, and District policy, follow District procedures for the evaluation, selection, management, and disposal of library media materials in conformance with this Policy and Policy 8.1205.
- c. Annually, the District requires using the selection criteria and the removal criteria referenced in this Policy to have library media specialists evaluate their collection in order to write a School Collection Development Plan to enhance their individual library programs that align to the District required components<sup>6</sup>. They will share that plan with both their principal and District Library Media Services. Once the plan is approved, the school will post the school's plan on the school website. District Library Media Services will offer annual training on this process.
- d. The SBE Rule 6A-7.0715 Certifications and Plans for Instructional Materials, in the Library Media Training, suggests a balance of fiction and non-fiction.
- e. The "Library Bill of Rights" referenced herein is to be used as a suggested guideline. To the extent that there are inconsistencies between the guidelines in the "Library Bill of Rights" and State Statute, or District policy, State Statute and District policy shall take precedence and shall govern the selection, retention and disposition criteria of library media materials for library media centers and classrooms.
- f. Selection of materials shall also be consistent with the provisions in the School Board's collective bargaining agreement with CTA relating to academic freedom and responsibilities--Article II, Section K--to the extent those provisions are applicable.

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<sup>6</sup>The School Collection Development Plan will include School Mission Statement, Library Mission Statement, Purpose of the Collection Development Plan, School Community Description, Description of Your Library Program, Budget and Funding, Scope of Collection, Collection Development, Gifts and Donations, Collection Maintenance, Challenged Materials, and Goals and Objectives.

- g. Additional criteria, again if consistent with Florida law requirements, that may be used in evaluating and selecting all materials (although copyright and graphic novels are mandatory criteria) include:
- i. EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE -- Material is valuable to an individual course of study or to the library media collection; the degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction.
  - ii. APPROPRIATENESS -- Material is geared to the age, maturity, diverse interests, and learning levels of students for whom it is intended. Reading levels and Lexile's are considered to provide a range of material that challenges the student and guides their selection process.
  - iii. ACCURACY -- Nonfiction information is correct, recent, and objective.
  - iv. LITERARY MERIT -- Fiction that has a noteworthy plot, setting, characterization, style and theme.
  - v. SCOPE -- Content is covered adequately to achieve its intended purpose.
  - vi. AUTHORITY -- The author, editor, or producer has a superior reputation for producing materials of this nature.
  - vii. SPECIAL FEATURES -- The item has maps, charts, graphs, glossaries, and/or other learning aids that support the content, are unique, or are valuable.
  - viii. TRANSLATION INTEGRITY -- Material translated from one language to another maintains the stylistic characteristics of the original.
  - ix. ARRANGEMENT -- Concepts are presented in a logical sequence and in a way that assures learning.
  - x. TREATMENT -- Typeset, visuals, style, and/or medium capture and hold the student's attention.
  - xi. TECHNICAL QUALITY -- Sound is clear and audible and visuals project clearly.
  - xii. AESTHETIC QUALITY -- Material is superior to similar items in attractiveness and presentation of content.
  - xiii. POTENTIAL DEMAND -- Item has particular timeliness or popular appeal.
  - xiv. DURABILITY -- Material has the potential for frequent use or is of a nature that it will be considered consumable.
  - xv. COPYRIGHT -- Library media materials used in a school shall be procured and used in accordance with federal, state and District copyright laws, rules, and policies as referenced in School Board Policy 8.121.
  - xvi. GRAPHIC NOVELS AND PERIODICALS -- In addition to the above criteria, all pictures are to be reviewed for appropriateness prior to placing the graphic novel or periodical into circulation.

## 11. Compliance

- a. Per Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (4) (f), "school principals are responsible for

overseeing compliance with school district procedures for selecting school library media center materials at the school to which they are assigned and notifying parents of the process for objecting to the use of specific materials.”

- b. Support toward compliance is available when the assigned school library media-specialist(s) attend professional-development/training hosted by the District Library Media team.
- c. Per Fla. Stat. § 1006.29 (6), no later than July 1 of each year, the Superintendent must certify to the FDOE that all school librarians and media specialists employed by the District have completed the FDOE online Library Media Training, program. The certification form is incorporated in SBE Rule 6A-7.0715.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 120.81 (1) (a); 1001.32(2); 1001.41(1), (2), & (5); 1001.42.

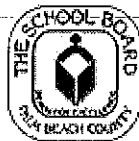
LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.32(2); 1001.42 (8), (9), (13), & (19)(a); 1001.43(2), (3) & (5); 1006.28; 1006.29; 1006.34; 1006.40; 1006.41; 847.012; SBE Rule 6A-7.0715; SBER 6A-7.0713

HISTORY: 2/18/72; 4/6/83; 2/20/85; 6/16/99; 5/7/2008; 1/24/2018; 12/27/22; 11/14/23

RELATED POLICIES:

Policy 8.1205 - Objection Procedures for Specific Library Media Center, Classroom Library, Reading List, Supplemental or Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board Adoption Process

## Appendix D: Policy 8.1205 - Objection Procedures for Specific Library Media Center, Classroom Library, Reading List, Supplemental or Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board Adoption Process



Book	School Board Policies
Section	Ch. 8. Curriculum and Instruction
Title	Objection Procedures for Specific Library Media Center, Classroom Library, Reading List, Supplemental or Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board Adoption Process
Code	8.1205
Status	Active
Adopted	November 14, 2023
Last Revised	November 30, 2022
Prior Revised Dates	5/7/2008; 1/24/2018; 11/30/2022

### **Policy 8.1205 - Objection Procedures for Specific Library Media Center, Classroom Library, Reading List, Supplemental or Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board Adoption Process**

This Policy does not apply to the 30-day post-adoption challenges to specific instructional materials by parents or County residents in compliance with Fla. Stat. § 1006.28(1)(a)(3). The procedures to follow for those challenges are outlined in School Board Policy 8.122, subparagraph (3)(g).

In addition, the Superintendent or designee, even without an objection or challenge, has the authority to remove instructional materials, library media materials, supplemental classroom materials, or reading lists based on statutory considerations. The basis for the removal shall be documented.

This Policy implements Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2)(a)2 relating to: objections by parents or this County's residents to: a) instructional materials that have not gone through the Board's adoption process and b): library media center materials, including reading lists, and non-adopted classroom materials. The procedures to follow for those challenges are outlined below; however, a parent or a resident of this County has the option to speak and proffer evidence at the Board hearing on adopting instructional materials and the Board adoption meeting without having followed the procedures below.

#### **1. Grievance Procedures Concerning Library Media Center Materials, Classroom Library, Reading Lists, Supplemental Classroom Instructional Materials, and**

## Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board Adoption Process

- a. The Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to administer the following procedures in accordance with federal and state law.
- b. Any resident of Palm Beach County or parent of a child attending public school in Palm Beach County may file an objection with a school concerning the use of or content in specific instructional materials, library media center materials, classroom libraries, and supplemental classroom materials, reading lists, and instructional materials that have not gone through the Board's adoption process.
- c. The parent or resident will be provided the opportunity to proffer evidence on the grounds stated within Fla. Stat. § 1006.28(2)(a)(2), as interpreted by SBE Rule 6A- 7.0714, relating to library media center materials, classroom libraries, supplemental classroom materials, reading lists, and instructional materials that have not gone through the Board's adoption process.
- d. However, if the School Board has previously made a decision on a challenged material within the last three (3) calendar years unless reversed on appeal, the formal process stated below (starting with Paragraph 3) will not apply. The school will forward the Objection form and the evidence proffered by the challenger to the Superintendent/designee. The Objections and its supporting items will be placed as a School Board agenda item with its previous decision, and unless new information is provided, the prior decision will remain.
- e. Per Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2)(a)2, the basis for Objections where the parent or resident is provided the opportunity to proffer evidence is as follows:
  - i. If the instructional material did not go through the District's public adoption process, the instructional material does not meet the criteria of s. 1006.31(2)<sup>1</sup> or s. 1006.40(3)(d)<sup>2</sup> if it was selected for use in a course or otherwise made available to students in the school district.
  - ii. "Any material used in a classroom<sup>3</sup>, made available in a school or classroom library, or included on a reading list contains content which:"
    - A. "Is pornographic or prohibited under s. 847.012 [Harmful to minors];"

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<sup>1</sup> Fla. Stat. §1006.31 contains standards for selecting instructional materials and several of these are found in Fla. Stat. § 1006.34(2)(b): "In the selection of instructional materials... the standards used to determine the propriety of the material shall include: 1. The age of the students who normally could be expected to have access to the material. 2. The educational purpose to be served by the material. Priority shall be given to the selection of materials that align with the state academic standards as provided for in s. 1003.41 and include the instructional objectives contained within the curriculum frameworks for career and technical education and adult and adult general education adopted by rule of the State Board of Education under s. 1004.92. 3. The degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction as part of a normal classroom instructional program. 4. The consideration of the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the students of this state."

"Any instructional material containing pornography or otherwise prohibited by s. 847.012 may not be used or made available within any public school." (Fla. Stat. § 1006.34 (2)(b)). Recommended materials are "only those instructional materials aligned with the state standards provided for in s. 1003.41. Instructional materials ... shall be, to the satisfaction of each reviewer, accurate, objective, balanced, noninflammatory, current, free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012, and suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented. ..." Fla. Stat. § 1006.31(2).

Fla. Stat. § 1006.31(2) further states that "[E]ach reviewer shall: (a) Include only instructional materials that accurately portray the ethnic, socioeconomic, cultural, religious, physical, and racial diversity of our society,

including men and women in professional, career, and executive roles, and the role and contributions of the entrepreneur and labor in the total development of this state and the United States.

(b) Include only materials that accurately portray, whenever appropriate, humankind's place in ecological systems, including the necessity for the protection of our environment and conservation of our natural resources and the effects on the human system of the use of tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, and other dangerous substances. (c) Include materials that encourage thrift, fire prevention, and humane treatment of people and animals. (d) Require, when appropriate to the comprehension of students, that materials for social science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. A reviewer may not recommend any instructional materials that contain any matter reflecting unfairly upon persons because of their race. "color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, disability, socioeconomic status, or occupation or otherwise contradict the principles enumerated under s. 1003.42(3). (e) When such instructional materials are for foundational reading skills, include only materials that are based on the science of reading and include phonics instruction for decoding and encoding as the primary instructional strategy for word reading. Instructional strategies within such materials may not employ the three- cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for teaching word reading. Instructional strategies within such materials may include visual information and strategies that improve background and experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to teach word reading. "(Fla. Stat. § 1006.31(2)

<sup>2</sup> Fla. Stat. §1006.40 (3)(d) [now(c)] states: (d) Any materials purchased pursuant to this section must be: 1. Free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012. 2. Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented. 3. Appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used or made available.

<sup>3</sup> As per SBE Rule 6A-7.0714 This does not include instructional materials as defined in Section 1006.29(2), F.S., except as noted in subparagraph (3)(a)4 of this rule which relates to instructional materials that have not gone through the Board's adoption process.

- B. "Depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in s. 847.001(19), unless such material is for a course required by s. 1003.46, s. 1003.42(2)(n)1.g., or s. 1003.42(2)(n) 3., or identified by State Board of Education rule [material used in instruction on HIV/AIDS, child sexual abuse prevention, abstinence and the impacts of teenage pregnancy, or any other course identified by the FDOE].;"
- C. "Is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented; or"
- D. "Is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used."
- f. Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2)(a)2 further states:
- i. "Any material that is subject to an objection on the basis of [1]) being pornographic or prohibited under s. 847.012 [Harmful to minors] or [2]) depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in s. 847.001(19)[<sup>3</sup>], unless such material is for a course required by s. 1003.46, s. 1003.42(2)(n)1.g., or s. 1003.42(2)(n)3., or identified by State Board of Education rule must be removed within 5 school days of receipt of the objection and remain unavailable to students of that school until the objection is resolved."
  - ii. Parents shall have the right to read passages from any material that is subject to an objection. If the School Board denies a parent the right to read passages due to content that meets the requirements of being pornographic or prohibited under s. 847.012 [Harmful materials to minors], the District shall discontinue the use of the material.
- g. In addition to the removal of materials as stated above in sub-paragraph 1(e)i, challenged materials, based on objections for other reasons, may be removed from use in the school where the objection was initiated after the procedures of this Policy have been completed or if it is agreed by the District at any of these stages. Moreover, per Fla. Stat. § 1006.28(2)(a) 2, if the School Board "finds that any material meets the requirements under sub-subparagraph a. [the basis stated in paragraph (1)(e) i above for challenging instructional materials] or that any other material contains prohibited content under sub-sub-subparagraph b.(I) [is pornographic or prohibited under s.847.012 (harmful to minors)],, the school district shall discontinue the use of the material. If the district school board finds that any other material contains prohibited content under sub-sub-subparagraph b. (II)-(IV),[depicts or describes sexual conduct (unless under the exceptions), is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented, or is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used] the school district shall discontinue use of the material for any grade level or age group for which such use is inappropriate or unsuitable."
- h. Objections filed by a parent shall be heard in the school in which that student is registered. If the parent has children at different schools in Palm Beach County, then the objection must specify which school(s) the objection pertains to and it will be heard in that/those school(s). If the objecting party is not the parent of a child in the School District, the objection will be assigned to the appropriate school within the boundary corresponding to the residence of the objecting party for review if the material is located at that school or to the school in close proximity where the material is located.
- i. If objections are made to instructional materials for reasons not state applicable to them within SBE Rule 6A-7.0714, they will be rejected by the Superintendent on behalf of the School Board without going through the process stated below.

## 2. School Level: Informal Complaint

- a. Any complaint arising out of the use of material in a school shall be registered in writing with the principal of the school. The principal shall forward a copy to the District's Department of Instructional Materials. Within five school days of the receipt of the complaint, the principal and/or his/her designee and the appropriate staff member(s) shall meet with the complainant to explain:
- i. the school's selection procedures for these materials;
  - ii. the criteria used for the selection of these materials;
  - iii. the role that the material in question has in the school's curriculum or library media center or classroom collection; and
  - iv. whatever additional information is deemed needed regarding the item's use.
- b. If the complainant is not satisfied with the explanation and desires to file a formal complaint, the formal procedures below shall be followed.

## 3. School Level: Formal Complaint

- a. As stated in Policy 8.122, objections to instructional materials that are currently in use, and as noted in School Board Policy 8.12 objections for other school materials, shall be filed with the school principal on the standard template/form adopted by the State Board of Education rule (once one is adopted) and the District's Part I template to the form which are part of this policy and incorporated herein.
- i. Until the adoption of this State form, the complainant shall assert these objections by filing form PBSB 1113 (Objections to Library Media Center, Classroom Library, Reading List, Supplemental, or Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board's Adoption Process) which is part of this policy and incorporated herein as part of this Policy. PBSB 1113 can be found on the District's forms website at: <https://www2.palmbeachschools.org/formssearch/pdf/1113.pdf>
  - ii. The form must be posted and easily accessible on the homepage of the District's website alongside the objection process.
  - iii. Alternatively, until the State form is adopted, the complainant can file a document specifying the objection which also identifies the School District point of contact and contact information for the submission of an objection and is easy to read and understand.
  - iv. The principal shall forward a copy of any objection to materials to the District's Department of Instructional Materials.
- b. The complainant shall sign and sufficiently complete the applicable form in its entirety for each material to be considered, including stating the basis of the objection, retain one copy, and send one copy of the completed form to the principal of the school. *Failure to sufficiently fill out the form along with complainant's signature will result in the rejection of the form and no formal review process under this subsection will be initiated.*
- c. A challenge to the same material(s) by multiple challengers within one school can be consolidated into one challenge for consideration by the School Materials Review Committee, Principal, Superintendent, District Material Review Committee, and School Board (the reviewing persons and entities) as set forth in the below proceedings.



- d. A challenge to multiple materials will require additional preparation time for the reviewing persons and entities set forth below. A challenge of more than five materials will add an additional five (5) school work days per item to the time deadlines for the school or District actions that are specified within this Policy.
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- e. For materials used *in that school*, the form and the material in question shall be studied by a School Materials Review Committee appointed on an ad hoc basis by the school Principal. Representation on the School Materials Review Committee should reflect the diversity of the District and school, and the following provisions apply:
- i. The committee shall consist of the Principal or his/her designee of the school where the complaint was made; two teachers in the appropriate subject area/grade; one teacher from another subject area/grade; a library media specialist; a guidance counselor; one student from the appropriate grade level or a student who is accomplished in the specific subject area (middle and senior high school only); one layperson from the school's Parent-Teacher Association or the School Advisory Council; a representative designated by the Regional Superintendent, and a representative from the District department representing Instructional Materials and/or Library Media Services. The committee must include parents of students who will have access to such materials.
  - ii. The School Materials Review Committee shall meet within fifteen (15) school work days of receipt by the Principal of the reconsideration form. The complainant shall be notified of the committee's meeting date and time and shall be invited to present arguments for no more than 10 minutes unless time is extended by the committee for good cause. A question/answer period or committee discussion may follow the presentation at the committee's discretion.
  - iii. Per HB 1069 (2023) "Meetings of committees convened for the purpose of resolving an objection by a parent or resident to specific materials must be noticed and open to the public in accordance with s. 286.011 [the Sunshine law]".
  - iv. The School Materials Review Committee shall solicit, if readily available, professionally written reviews of the material, from sources such as those listed in School Board Policy 8.12(9), footnote 3.
  - v. The School Materials Review Committee shall be chaired by the Principal or his/her designee. A recorder of minutes shall be appointed from the membership of the committee to take minutes and to record the recommendation of the committee.
  - vi. If the review is not completed, the committee may schedule additional meetings. Within five (5) school work days of its final meeting, the School Materials Review Committee shall prepare the committee's recommendation with supporting reasons and use form PBSB 1857, School Materials Review Committee Recommendations, or a signed letter written on school letterhead. The form can be found on the District's forms Web site at <https://www2.palmbeachschools.org/formssearch/pdf/1857.pdf> and is incorporated herein by reference.
- f. Guidelines for Committee's Recommendation. -- The School Materials Review Committee shall review enough of the relevant portions of the material being challenged in order to make an informed recommendation on the request. The committee shall also consider readily available reviews of the material, study the comments on the complainant's Objection form, and consider applicable Florida statutes and rules which are a basis for an objection as stated in sub-paragraphs (1)(e) and (f) above and Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2)(a) 2 or any other State laws which are the basis

for an objection. in) The committee shall render its recommendation based on a majority vote.

- i. The criteria for asserting objections stated above in the Policy shall be made available to all interested persons.
  - ~~ii. The recommendation to the Principal will be based on the same criteria stated above in sub-paragraph (3)(f)~~
  - iii. In addition, the recommendation shall also consider the provisions in the School Board's collective bargaining agreement with CTA relating to academic freedom and responsibilities--Article II, Section K--to the extent those provisions are applicable and consistent with State law. However, pursuant to current case law, the committee may not recommend the removal of non-curricular books from the school's media center or classroom simply because a majority of the committee dislikes the ideas or the points of view contained in the media center instructional or supplemental classroom instructional materials.
- g. Committee's Recommendation to the Principal. -- The committee's final recommendation shall be immediately forwarded to the school Principal and may be any or a combination of the following:
- i. allow the challenged material to maintain its current status;
  - ii. leave the challenged material in the classroom or library media center, but allow students to use alternate materials approved by school personnel who require the use of the disputed item;
  - iii. limit the educational use of the challenged material;
  - iv. transfer the challenged material to a higher-level school (e. g. elementary to a middle school); and/or
  - v. remove the challenged material from the school environment.
- h. Principal's Written Decision. -- Within five (5) school work days after receipt of the School Materials Review Committee's recommendation, the Principal shall make a decision, based on the same criteria considered by the committee as set forth in subsection (3)(f) above, on whether to follow the committee's recommendation, and shall inform the complainant *in writing* of the recommendation of the committee, the Principal's decision, and *the reasons for the recommendation and decision*. This

written communication must inform the complainant of the next level of appeal under this policy and the time deadline if the decision is not the relief sought by the objecting party. Such communication shall be sent by regular U. S. Mail, and certified mail, return receipt requested. The principal shall forward a copy to the District's Department of Instructional Materials.

4. **District Level: Formal Appeal.** -- The complainant may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent, subject to the following provisions.
- a. If the complainant appeals the Principal's decision, the Principal shall send copies of all reports and communications to division and department heads that supervise Instructional Materials and Library Media Services and to the appropriate Regional Superintendent.
  - b. Access to challenged materials shall be governed by Paragraph (1)(e) above, or if not based on one of those grounds, will not be restricted during the reconsideration process; the materials shall remain in use unless removal is required by State law or the School Materials Review Committee, through a formal vote, recommended removal of the instructional materials to the Principal, and the decision to remove is made by the Principal.
  - c. Within twenty (20) calendar days of the date of the Principal's decision, the complainant shall notify the Superintendent in writing of the request to appeal. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the appeal not being considered.
  - d. Within twenty (20) school work days of receipt of such request, the Superintendent or his/her designee and appropriate staff shall review the action taken at the school level and issue a decision based on the same criteria set forth in subsection (3)(f) above and with the same alternative results as set forth in subsection (3)(g) above. If the decision does not include further review by the Superintendent/designee (and District Materials Review Committee), the complainant shall be so notified of the decision and be informed of the ability and deadline to request *in writing* an appearance to appeal directly to The School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida in accordance with this Policy. Notice to the complainant shall be made by regular U. S. Mail and certified mail, return receipt requested.
  - e. If the Superintendent finds cause for further review, the complaint shall be submitted to a District Materials Review Committee whose representation reflects the diversity of the District and school, appointed on an ad hoc basis by the Superintendent or his/her designee, according to the following provisions:
    - i. Representation on District Instructional Materials Committees should reflect the diversity of the District and schools.
    - ii. Individuals on the District Materials Review Committee cannot be the same as those who served on the School Materials Review Committee.
    - iii. The committee shall consist of the Chief Academic Officer or his/her designee; an appropriate Regional Superintendent or designee; one Principal at the appropriate level; a division or department head that supervises Instructional Materials, and/or Library Media Services, an appropriate subject area Administrator/Program Planner; one teacher in the appropriate subject area/grade; one library media specialist; one student from the appropriate

grade level or a student who is accomplished in the specific subject area (middle and senior high only); a representative from the Palm Beach County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations who will be appointed by the President of the District Association, a representative from the District Academic Advisory Committee; and one lay person. The General Counsel to the School Board, or designated attorney(s) of his/her Office, may be invited to provide legal advice to the Committee, if deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. The committee must include parents of students who will have access to such materials.

- iv. In the event that a person from a position named above cannot be present at the District Materials Review Committee meeting(s), the Superintendent may appoint an alternate.
- v. District Materials Review Committee Procedures
  - A. The District Materials Review Committee shall be chaired by the Chief Academic Officer or his/her designee. A recorder of minutes shall be appointed from the membership of the committee to take minutes and to record the recommendation of the committee.
  - B. The District Materials Review Committee shall solicit, if readily available, professionally written reviews of the material, from sources such as those listed in Policy 8.12(9), footnote 3.
  - C. Per HB 1069 (2023) "Meetings of committees convened for the purpose of resolving an objection by a parent or resident to specific materials must be noticed and open to the public in accordance with s. 286.011[the Sunshine law]."
  - D. The District Materials Review Committee shall meet and *provide a recommendation with supporting reasons* to the Superintendent within twenty (20) school work days of receipt of the referral from the Superintendent, based on the criteria set forth in subparagraph (3) (f) above. The complainant shall be notified of the committee's meeting date and time and shall be invited to present argument for no more than 10 minutes, unless time is extended by the committee for good cause. A question/answer period or committee discussion may follow the presentation *at the committee's discretion*.
  - E. If the review is not completed, the committee may schedule additional meetings. Within five (5) school work days of its final meeting, the District Materials Review Committee shall prepare the committee's recommendations with supporting reasons.
- f. Guidelines for Recommendation to the Superintendent. -- The District Materials Review Committee shall review enough of the relevant portions of the material being challenged in order to make an informed recommendation on the request. The committee shall also consider readily available reviews of the material, study the comments on the complainant's Objection form, and consider the same criteria in sub-paragraph (3)(f) above. The committee shall render its recommendation based on a majority vote.
  - i. The Criteria for asserting objections stated above in the Policy shall be made available to all interested persons.

- ii. The recommendation to the Superintendent will be based on the consider the same criteria in sub-paragraph (3)(f) above.
- g. Committee's Recommendation to the Superintendent. -- The recommendation of the District Materials Review Committee and the basis for that recommendation shall be transmitted to the Superintendent; the Chief Academic Officer; the Principal of the school that received the original complaint; and the complainant.
- h. Superintendent's/Designee's Written Decision. -- The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make a final decision, based on the same criteria considered by the committee as set forth in subparagraph (4)(f) above, within five (5) school work days of receipt of the District Materials Review Committee recommendation, and send a written report of that decision to the Chief Academic Officer, the appropriate Assistant Superintendent, the Principal of the school; and the complainant. *The written decision shall state procedures and time limits to appeal to the Board if the complainant is dissatisfied.* This decision shall be sent to the complainant by regular U. S. mail and certified mail, return receipt requested.
- i. The Department of Strategic Communications & Engagement shall make the criteria for objections and a copy of the material(s) in question available for review upon request of interested persons.

#### **5. Board Level Appeal**

- a. The complainant may appeal the decision of the Superintendent/designee to the School Board under subsection (4)(d) or paragraph (4)(h) above by filing a signed writing with the School Board Clerk within thirty (30) days of the decision and may request an appearance before the School Board.
- b. After notice to the appealing party, the School Board Level review shall occur at a public meeting. The Board shall review all evidence and materials presented previously in this process. If the complainant wishes to proffer any additional evidence, it must be submitted to the superintendent no less than five (5) days prior to the meeting at which the matter will be heard.
- c. The complainant and public shall be afforded an opportunity to comment before the Board makes a final decision.
- d. The School Board's decision shall be based on the same criteria considered by the Superintendent as set forth in subsections (4)(d) and (h) above.
- e. The parents who were the complainants may request on the appropriate State form the appointment of a special magistrate if they disagree with the local decision about an objection to materials used in school or classroom libraries as set forth in SBER 6A- 1.094126 Special Magistrate for Materials Used in Classroom or School Libraries. The magistrate "will not be appointed for parental objections to instructional materials that were adopted by a school district or are in the process of adoption by a school district using district procedures for public review and comment" as required by the Statute. The District's obligations during this process are stated in this Rule. This includes the designation of at least one person responsible for responding to FDOE inquiries regarding a request for the appointment of a special magistrate and notifying FDOE of the name and email address of the individual.

## 6. Policy Awareness

- a. A copy of the selection and reconsideration procedures, as set forth in this Policy and in Board Policy 8.12, should be a part of the Collection Development Plan for each school library media center and should be available for easy access and reference.
- b. Each school Principal should include at a minimum, a summary or references to this Challenge Policy and School Board Policy 8.12 in the school's staff handbook and shall review the selection and reconsideration procedures with the staff as needed, emphasizing Board policy pertaining to the teaching of controversial issues and the ethical considerations that are needed in handling citizen complaints with courtesy and integrity.

## 7. Reporting Objections

- a. Fla. Stat. § 1006.28 (2)(e)3.a requires that: "Annually, beginning June 30, 2023, [the School Board] submit to the Commissioner of Education a report that identifies: a. Each material for which the school district received an objection pursuant to [Fla. Stat. 1006.28] subparagraph (a)2 [regarding an objection by a parent or a resident of the county to the use of a specific instructional material or any material used in a classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list], including the grade level and course the material was used in, for the school year and the specific objections thereto. b. Each material that was removed or discontinued. c. Each material that was not removed or discontinued and the rationale for not removing or discontinuing the material."
- b. The most recently adopted SBER 6A-7.0714 Library and Instructional Materials Objection Report sets forth the form of the Report and the method of reporting the information to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE).
- c. Accordingly, this data must be collected for these reports in a manner as determined by the Superintendent/designee.
- d. The FDOE publishes and regularly updates a list of materials that "were removed or discontinued as a result of an objection and disseminates the list to school districts for consideration in their selection procedures."

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 120.81 (1) (a); 1001.32 (2); 1001.41(1)(2) & (5); 1001.42(29)

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.32(2); 1001.41(1)(2) & (5); 1001.42 (8)(13) & (15) 1001.43(2)(3); 1006.28; 1006.283; 1006.31; 1006.34; 1006.40; 847.012; SBER 6A-7.0714; SBER 6A-1.094126

HISTORY: 5/7/2008; 1/24/2018; 11/30/22; 11/14/23

### RELATED POLICIES:

School Board Policy 8.122 Textbooks and Related Instructional Materials  
 School Board Policy 8.12 Selection of Library Media Center Materials, Classroom Library Materials and Reading List Materials  
 School Board Policy 5.735 Parent's Bill of Rights

## Appendix E:

### Specific Material Objection

#### Part I:

This form is for use by a parent of a student or resident of Palm Beach County who is challenging specific library media center, classroom library, reading list, supplemental, or instructional materials that have not gone through the Board's adoption process. This form must be used after the informal objection process, as described in School Board Policy 8.1205<sup>1</sup>, has occurred if the challenger remains dissatisfied.

Pursuant to Board Policy 8.1205, which implements F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2, as interpreted by SBE Rule 6A- 7.0714, this form must be used by the parent of a student or a resident of Palm Beach County to object to the use of the aforementioned materials. However, a parent or County resident may object without using this form at the Board's public hearing or meeting to adopt instructional materials.

The process for filing this objection form is as follows in compliance with School Board Policy 8.1205.

Objections filed by a parent shall be heard in the school in which that student is registered. If the parent has children at different schools in Palm Beach County, then the objection must specify which school(s) the objection pertains to and it will be heard in that/those school(s). If the objecting party is not the parent of a child in the School District but a County resident, the objection will be assigned to the appropriate school within the boundary corresponding to the residence of the objecting party for review if the material is located at that school or to the school in close proximity where the material is located.

The school's and principal's email address and mailing address are located on the bottom of the school's website or can be obtained by contacting the District's Strategic Department of Communications and Engagement.

#### First Step: Informal Complaint at the School Level

Any complaint arising out of the use of a material in a school shall be registered in writing with the principal of the school. Within five school days of the receipt of the complaint, the principal and/or his/her designee and the appropriate staff member(s) shall meet with the complainant.

#### Next Step: School Level: Formal Complaint

If the complainant is not satisfied with the school's explanation and desires to file a formal complaint, the formal procedures shall be followed, including filing this form. Provide the information requested on the form so that adequate information is received to process the Objection and attempt resolution. Failure to sufficiently fill out the form along with complainant's signature will result in the rejection of the form and no formal review process.

If, however, the School Board has previously decided on a challenged material within the last three (3) calendar years, unless reversed on appeal, the formal process in the Policy will not apply. The school will forward the objection form and the evidence proffered by the challenger to the Superintendent/designee. The Objections and its supporting items will be placed as a School Board agenda item with its previous decision, and unless new information is provided, the prior decision will remain. Moreover, if objections are made to instructional materials for reasons not stated applicable to them within SBE Rule 6A-7.0714, they will be rejected by the Superintendent on behalf of the School Board without going through the process stated below.

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<sup>1</sup> School Board Policy 8.1205 -- Objection Procedures for Specific Library Media Center, Classroom Library, Reading List, Supplemental or Instructional Materials That Have Not Gone Through the Board Adoption Process—can be found on the School District's website at this link: <http://l.sdpbc.net/hta17> .

If the formal process applies, the School Materials Review Committee will review the material and hold an open public meeting subject to the Sunshine laws. The complainant shall be notified of the committee's meeting date and time and shall be invited to present arguments for no more than 10 minutes unless time is extended by the committee for good cause. A question/answer period or committee discussion may follow the presentation at the committee's discretion. The Policy states the composition of the committee and the committee must include parents of students who will have access to such materials. The Committee will vote and make a recommendation to the Principal based on statutory criteria for objections to materials, as interpreted by State Board of Education Rules, any readily available, professionally written reviews of the material, the objection form, and the CTA agreement to the extent it is consistent with State law. The committee's recommendation with supporting reasons will be stated on form PBSB 1857--School Materials Review Committee Recommendations--and is provided to the Principal. The Principal makes a written decision based on the same criteria and states the reasons for the recommendation and decision. This written communication forwarded to the complainant must inform the complainant of the next level of appeal under this policy and the time deadline if the decision is not the relief sought.

### **Next Step: District Level: Formal Appeal**

The complainant may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent within twenty (20) calendar days of the date of the Principal's decision. The Superintendent or his/her designee and appropriate staff shall review the action taken at the school level and issue a decision based on the same criteria. If the decision does not include further review by the Superintendent/designee (and District Materials Review Committee), the complainant shall be so notified of the decision and be informed of the ability and deadline to request in writing an appearance to appeal directly to the School Board.

If, however, the Superintendent finds cause for further review, the complaint shall be submitted to a District Materials Review Committee and the Policy sets forth its diverse composition including parents of students who will have access to such materials. The committee will hold an open public meeting subject to the Sunshine laws. The complainant shall be notified of the committee's meeting date and time and shall be invited to present argument for no more than 10 minutes, unless time is extended by the committee for good cause. A question/answer period or committee discussion may follow the presentation *at the committee's discretion*. The committee will vote and provide a recommendation with supporting reasons to the Superintendent based on the same criteria. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make a final decision, based on the same criteria considered by the committee, and send the written report to the complainant, which will contain time limits to appeal to the Board if the complainant is dissatisfied.

### **Next Step: Board Level Appeal**

The complainant may appeal the decision of the Superintendent/designee to the School Board by filing a signed writing with the School Board Clerk within thirty (30) days of the decision and may request an appearance before the School Board. After notice to the appealing party, the School Board Level review shall occur at a public meeting.

The Board shall review all evidence and materials presented previously in this process. If the complainant wishes to proffer any additional evidence, it must be submitted to the superintendent no less than five (5) days prior to the meeting at which the matter will be heard. The complainant and public shall be afforded an opportunity to comment before the Board makes a final decision. The School Board's decision shall be based on the same criteria considered by the Superintendent.



## Next Step—Special Magistrate

Parents who were the complainants may request on the appropriate State form the appointment of a special magistrate if they disagree with the local decision about an objection to materials used in school or classroom libraries as set forth in SBER 6A-1.094126 Special Magistrate for Materials Used in Classroom or School Libraries.

### Part II:

#### Introduction

This form must be used by a parent or resident of this county, in conjunction with district policies and procedures, to submit an objection to the school board for the following material:

1. Materials used in a classroom in the district, except for instructional materials as defined in s. 1006.29(2), F.S. The process and forms to object to instructional materials can be found at <http://l.sdpbc.net/hta17> or <http://l.sdpbc.net/z8uvq>.
2. Materials made available to students in a school or classroom library.
3. Materials included on a school or classroom reading list.
4. Instructional Materials adopted and made available to students without the opportunity for public notice, review and hearing procedures by districts that implement their own instructional materials program under s. 1006.283, F.S.

#### Section 1: Parent or Resident Information

Check the box that applies to you. Check all that apply.

Parent/guardian of a student  Resident of this county

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 2: Information Regarding Material

Type of material:  Book  Non-print material  Other (identify): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the material: \_\_\_\_\_

Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Publisher or Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level used: \_\_\_\_\_

Where is the material found:  Media Center  Classroom Library  Reading List  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

School(s) where material is found: \_\_\_\_\_

ISBN, if available: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Section 3: Basis for the Objection

Identify the basis for your objection:

- The material is pornographic.
- The material is prohibited under Section 847.012, F.S.
- The material depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in Section 847.001(19), F.S.
- The material is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material.
- The material is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which it is used.

### Section 4: Objection Specific Information

1. What brought this material to your attention?

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2. Did you examine this material in its entirety? Yes No If not, what sections did you examine?

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3. Identify the portion of the material objected to and why. *(You must be specific and provide page numbers, sections, or timestamps, as appropriate. You may attach additional information that does not fit within this form.)*

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4. Is there any age or grade you would recommend this material? Yes No

If yes, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is there any value in this material? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your desired outcome for this material?

Remove or discontinue use of material.

Limit access to certain grade levels: \_\_\_\_\_

Limit my child's access.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_