



## **Northmore Elementary School**

# **FY25 Collection Development Policy**

Melissa C. Welden, MLIS  
Certified Educational Media Specialist

## Signature Page

Northmore Elementary School  
FY25 Collection Development Policy

Date Drafted: 04/04/24

Date Approved by Administration:

Media Specialist Name: Melissa C. Welden

Media Specialist Signature: Melissa C. Welden

Principal Name: Cory A. Friess

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory A. Friess', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

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## **Purpose of Collection Development Policy**

The purpose of this plan is to identify the community of learners being served, define the collection, provide the methods of maintaining the collection, and set forth the operational procedures for the Northmore Elementary School Media Center. It is to support the Library's Mission Statement. In addition, it is to formulate a process for policy and procedures, budget allocation, needs assessment, collection development and deselection of books along with sharing sources of information.

The tenets set forth in the American Library Association pertaining to Intellectual Freedom and the right to Read will be followed. SDPBC Policy 8.12 (6.a) stipulates: "Each school shall, in conjunction with the Library Bill of Rights" ([www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm)) of the American Library Association (ALA) and the 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.

## **Background Statement & School Community**

Northmore Elementary is a Title 1 school of Dual-Language and Performing Arts programming. Title 1 is a program designed to improve academic outcomes for all students by strengthening instruction, promoting a culture of high expectations, engaging and empowering families, ensuring safety and healthy learning conditions. It serves a culturally diverse population, which includes a 49% ESOL population. Northmore is a C rated, 5 Star School. The media center will serve approximately 640 students; pre-kindergarten - fifth grade and 101 staff members. The demographic of its student population is 98% Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL). The diversity breakdown of the school is \_\_\_% Hispanic, \_\_\_% Black, \_\_\_% White, and \_\_\_% other. In addition, it supports the curriculum of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and English Language Learner Student (ELL) programs.

In the media center, students are offered opportunities to participate in special programs and activities such as Battle of the Books, MakerSpace, Project Based Learning, and the Summer Slide Reading Program. In addition, it will serve all community stakeholders such as parents, Northmore After Care Program and Bridges Program. There is also a "Little Free Library" located outside the front of the school for the community to select free books from.

## **Mission Statement**

At Northmore Elementary, our mission is to create an academic and social environment that fosters, motivates, and inspires our students to gain the knowledge, skills, and ethics to develop into well-educated, responsible, and caring citizens reaching their highest potential.

## **Media Center Mission Statement**

Our Media Center is dedicated to principles set forth in the mission statements of the School Board of Palm Beach County and Northmore Elementary School. The library media center is dedicated to designing and implementing instructional materials to prepare students for global citizenship and to be competitive in the work environment.

The specific mission of this media center is to provide a safe, welcoming environment in order to further the educational and recreational learning needs of a diverse culture of students, faculty, and staff of the Northmore Elementary School community through the most current and appropriate print media, technology, and the best personal assistance available.

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

Palm Beach County Schools, through the professional library media staff at Northmore Elementary, shall and will provide a wide range of learning opportunities and resources at various levels of rigor, with diversity and inclusion in English and other languages, to meet the needs of all students.

Selection process is based on the needs of assessment and stakeholders interests. In addition, the collection of books is purchased based on the input from all staff members, students, parents, and administration aligned with state status.

## **Library Program**

The Northmore Elementary School Media Center is open from 7:40 am to 3:10 pm. A fixed schedule is followed. All classes are on a six-day rotating schedule to visit the media center once each week for thirty minutes. In addition, students may visit the library before school and after school. Students also have access to the Ben Carson Room to select and read books of their choice.

The librarian teaches the state standards and national school library standards. In addition, it is a committed collaboration between the media specialist and teachers to support the language arts, math, and science curriculum. This year we will start with teaching basic media skills: taking care of books, knowing the parts of books, how to locate books using the Dewey Decimal System, Digital Citizenship, research, and typing skills. K-2 classes participate in project based learning. Lessons in the media center are developed to support the project topic for each grade level.

The media center programming supports the school curriculum and the development of the love of reading by offering several activities: Battle of the Books, Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Women's History Month, Haitian History, Holocaust, Constitution Day, Cinco de Mayo, and American History. Fourth grade students are able to sign up to be part of the Panther Morning News Crew. The morning news is coordinated by the media specialist with assistance from the ITSA. Northmore

Elementary also participates in Read for the Record by inviting guest speakers to the K-2 classrooms and also a Winter Reading Challenge in collaboration with the Mandel Library of West Palm Beach.

## **Goals and Objectives**

- 1. Encourage faculty and students to use the library media center and participate in contests.**
- 2. Hold an annual reading challenge for both faculty and students.**
- 3. Have guest authors speak to students about writing and illustrating.**

## **SMART Goals**

### **1: Improve the “everyone” section of the library collection**

- **Use data from Titlewise analysis**
- **purchase up-to-date books that relate to the needs and interests of the student population in FY25**

### **2: Improve the “fiction” section of the library collection**

- **Use data from Titlewise analysis**
- **purchase up-to-date books that relate to the needs and interests of the student population in FY25**

### **3: Grow the STEAM library materials and library stations materials**

- **Use a survey to develop stations based on teacher and student needs and interests**
- **purchase materials that will support the K-5 curriculum standards**

As materials are weeded, they will be removed, boxed, and shipped to Library Media Services for disposal. No outdated material will be placed in classrooms.

## **Budget and Funding**

The LMC is given a school-based operating budget at the beginning of every school year. The Northmore Elementary School administration uses a formula to disperse the appropriated funds. The budget for the 2024-2025 school year is expected to be similar to the 2023-2024 budget.

**2024-2025 (FY25) Projected Budget Amounts**

<b>School Based Operating Budget</b>	<b>Budget FY24</b>	<b>FY25 Projected Budget</b>
<i>Account 55110 - Media Supplies</i>	\$451	\$500
<i>Account 553420 - Media Subscriptions</i>	\$270	\$300
<i>Account 561100 - Media Books</i>	\$811	\$900
<i>Account 562230 - Media A/V Equipment</i>	\$361	\$400
<i>Account - Furniture/Equipment</i>	\$451	\$500
<b>Fundraising/ Grants</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	
<i>Media Center Internal Account number (get this from your bookkeeper)</i>	\$885	\$1,000
<b>State Media Allocation</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	
<i>Account 556110 (program 3070) - Media Books</i>	\$1,563	\$1,600

## Purchasing Plan 2024-2025

Approximate Purchasing Plan	
Purpose	Amount
books	\$3,500
supplies	500
STEM	600
makerspace	300
periodicals	300
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,200</b>

### Scope of the Collection

Every effort is made to maintain the collection to exceed the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges requirements. The age of the collection in crucial areas is frequently monitored and every effort is made to weed and replace publications that are as current as possible as funding allows.

In addition, the media center will purchase printed materials and equipment to support classroom learning, student interests, Social Emotional Learning and the Battle of the Books Program. Also, the media center will utilize the district's databases and ebooks to expand the local collection and provide 24/7 access to students and staff. We will purchase additional electronic resources as needed as well.

These materials will support both curriculum and pleasure reading as per School Board Policy 8.12 (see Section 2d). Also, per district policy, the collection will be arranged in standard Dewey order (see Section 5: Management of Library Media Instructional Materials).

Using the Titlewise Analysis to determine areas where attention is needed is very valuable. It allows the media specialist to target areas to weed and areas to purchase materials for.

The types of media formats in the collection are hardback, paper backs, downloadable ebooks, and district-access internet resources which are found on the student's portal. Board Policy 8.12: Databases and ebooks that are in the collection provide access 24/7 for students. This material will support both curriculum and assist students with



developing the love of pleasure reading as per School Board Policy 8.12, Section 2d. Meet the personal needs and interests of students, including materials that: nurture the development of recreational reading/listening/viewing skills, cultural appreciation, and aesthetic values; represent the many religious, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groups in our society 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 and also per District Policy.

## **Equipment**

There is equipment available to student and staff use which include: a set of 18 I-Pads, 4 Chromebooks, 2 copy machines, 2 laminators, and a poster maker. The media center also houses a TV production studio which is used for morning news announcements.

## **Collection Development**

Collection Development is the process of providing quality materials and equipment for the library media center. It states the principles and guidelines used by Northmore Library Media Center in selection, acquisition, and maintenance of library materials. The goal of collection development is to ensure the collection has information sources in adequate quantity and variety to support students' academic and personal interest needs. The media specialist leads this process with the input of administration, teachers, students, parents, and stakeholders.

### **Replacement Policy/Criteria for Weeding Library Materials**

It is essential that the collection is a balanced collection that is useful to students and staff. The media specialist will assess the need for replacement, which is influenced by:

- Availability of Copies
- Popular Interest
- Cost
- Relevant to Current Curriculum

### **Guidelines**

The decision is based on a number of factors including:

- Material in poor condition-beyond repair.
- Materials no longer appropriate for the span of reading and comprehension levels in the school library.
- Materials that are outdated.
- Duplicated copies that are no longer in demand.
- Materials no longer relevant to the school curriculum or of student interested
- Encyclopedia and atlases should be considered in the replacement if they are over five (5) years old.
- Magazines that are researched/referenced may be retained for no more than three (3) years.

### **Weeding Procedures**

1. Weed different sections of the collection at different times. Current curriculum may determine how often assessments of the collection are done. The final decision to weed materials in the media collection is made by the media specialist; however, seeking input from the library advisory committee to help make decisions as needed.
2. Delete items from Destiny.
3. Cross out school identification and barcode with a black marker on all discarded materials.
4. Discard magazines and audiovisual material resources directly in the trash.
5. Pack weeded books in boxes and mark "weeded" using the provided labels from Library Media Services. Each box must be less than 30 pounds. Call for pickup.
6. Discarded materials may not be offered to students.

### **Equipment Withdrawal Procedure**

Worn, obsolete, or damaged equipment will be disposed of immediately in the trash.

### **Inventory**

As per Board Policy, inventory of one third of the collection is required each school year. Inventory is necessary to keep the library collection in Destiny up to date.

## **Selection and Evaluation Criteria**

Per Florida Statute governing instructional materials, instructional materials 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. Northmore Elementary School typically inventories part of its collection each year on a rotational basis, every 3 years. Selection of books is considered through at least two reviews from School Library Journal, Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, and/or The Horn Book, Inc.

Weeding of materials and resources is essential for the maintenance of a healthy reading, research, and reference library media collection. Weeding is a form of quality control of the collection in which outdated, inaccurate, and worn-out materials and equipment are discarded from the electronic catalog and physically removed from the collection.

The Library Media Specialist is responsible for the on-going maintenance of a quality collection which includes procurement of new materials and discarding of ineffective items. Teachers, administration, and the school library media advisory committee assist in the reevaluation and systematic deleting of materials and equipment to ensure that the collection remains responsive to user needs, changing curriculum, and advancing technology.

In coordinating this process, the library media specialist will follow objective criteria for removing materials and equipment from the media center, which include obsolescence,

physical age and condition, and general inapplicability for continued inclusion in the existing collection. One popular criteria for weeding is the CREW Manual and use of the MUSTIE acronym for selection: Misleading, Ugly, Superseded, Trivial, Irrelevant, or Obtained Elsewhere.

## **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](mailto: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, 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.
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

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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.

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

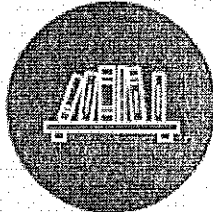
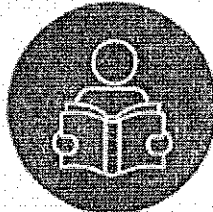
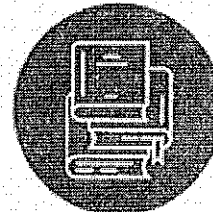

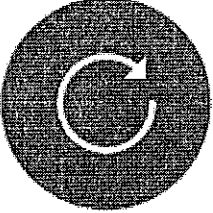

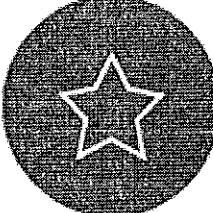


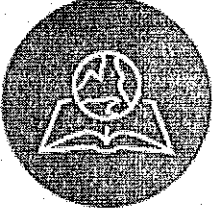
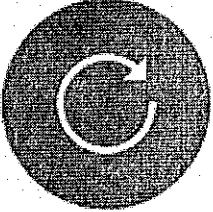


- Fostering a global range of services that facilitate the transformation of school-based library activities to meet the changing needs of an information society.

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>5,781</b> Items in the Collection	<b>9</b> Items per Student	<b>17%</b> Fiction Titles in the Collection	<b>47%</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>2005</b> Average Age of the Collection	<b>58%</b> Aged Titles	<b>8%</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>1,997</b> Representative Titles in Collection	<b>2004</b> Representative Titles Average Age	<b>1,781</b> SLL Titles in Collection	<b>2007</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)
Computer Science, Information & General Works	31	2013
Philosophy & Psychology	56	2008
Religion	22	1998
Social Sciences	524	2004
Language	101	2006
Science	902	2004
Technology	335	2005
Arts & Recreation	266	2012
Literature	76	2004
History & Geography	378	2004
Biography	312	2004
Easy	1,179	2005
General Fiction	989	2008

## 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. In addition, all gifts and donations of books must be vetted by a certified media specialist.

## Collection Maintenance

Northmore Library Inventory will be completed on a three-year rotation as per Board Policy 8.12(5). Then list your rotation plan by year. For example, the order is organized as 2023 non-fiction, 2024 biography, and 2025 easy reader. It requires culling the collection for outdated or damaged materials and is an ongoing process. Therefore, the media specialist will conduct an inventory of the library collection and equipment annually. The inventory will assist with accessing the lost and damaged books in order to determine which need to be replaced. In addition, the inventory will be help with removing materials that are outdated, no longer relevant to the curriculum, or not of interest to the students and stakeholders.

## Lost or Damaged Library Materials

As materials are returned, those that are damaged beyond repair will be removed from the catalog. The media specialist assesses the need for weeding to replace materials that are damaged, deselected, and otherwise lost. During the process of inventory and shelving, materials that fit the weeding criteria will be removed. Reports from Titlewise will provide age of collection data by section. A report on weeded or lost items will be printed from Destiny to determine which titles need to be replaced.

Students who lose or do not return their library materials will be assessed a fine for the lost or damaged items. Late charges will not be assessed. There will be a graduation hold placed on student accounts if fines and fees are left unpaid.

## Strategic Focus – Weeding and Acquisitions

School Year	Strategic Focus
2024-2025	<b>Selection Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-fiction 92, 300 - contents are outdated</li><li>• Non-fiction 400 - contents are outdated</li><li>• Non-fiction 500, 700 - contents are outdated</li></ul>
	<b>Inventory/ Weeding Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-fiction 700 - content outdated</li><li>• Non-fiction 800 - no longer meets the current curriculum needs</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-fiction 900 - aged and accuracy</li> </ul>
2025-2026	<b>Selection Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiction - not circulated in 5 years</li> <li>• Easy Readers - No longer circulated</li> </ul>
	<b>Inventory/ Weeding Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiction - not circulated in the last 5 years</li> <li>• Easy/Everyone/Picture - No longer circulated</li> <li>• Non-fiction - age and appropriateness</li> </ul>
2026-2027	<b>Selection Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-fiction 92, 300 - contents are outdated</li> <li>• Non-fiction 400 - contents are outdated</li> <li>• Non-fiction 500, 700 - contents are outdated</li> </ul>
	<b>Inventory/ Weeding Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-fiction 92, 300 - contents are outdated</li> <li>• Non-fiction 400, 700 - contents are outdated</li> <li>• Non-fiction 600 - no longer meet the current curriculum needs</li> </ul>

## Reconsideration of Materials

Books and other materials are challenged on occasion. The media specialist will follow the School District of Palm Beach County policy 8.125 on any type of material that is challenged by a parent or other adult and with completion of form PBSB 1113. Media staff are instructed to give the person challenging the material the form and explain the procedure to be followed. Since these can be occasions of emotional intensity, it is imperative that the media staff stay detached from any emotional response to the situation while carefully respecting the person's rights to object to the book/material. No media specialist is ever put in the position of facing this situation alone. Assistance from Library Media Services is immediate and ongoing.

## 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

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.*

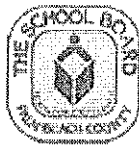
This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

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 PBS 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.sdbpc.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.
- 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/htai7> .

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/htaiZ> or <http://l.sdpbc.net/z8uyg>.
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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_