

as of March 2005

## 5292 -- SELECTION AND HANDLING OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The purpose of this regulation is to provide a fair, efficient and organized process for the selection and, where appropriate re-evaluation of library materials. If any material comes under question or protest, it will be re-evaluated for its educational value and relevancy. This regulation is designed to provide students with materials of educational value and to protect student rights and freedom of access to materials even though they may be controversial.

Therefore, the Webster Central School Board of Education supports the principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the American Library Association's School Library Bill of Rights (Appendix C).

The District recognized the importance of providing a wide range of library materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view. The Board also recognizes that the review of allegedly inappropriate materials through established procedures may be necessary.

In order to assure that the school media program is an integral part of the educational program of the school, the following selection criteria are adopted:

### Criteria For Selection of Materials

1. Library materials will provide sources of information and activities that relate to the objectives of the curriculum and the goals of the district.
2. Physical format and appearance of materials shall be of high quality and be appropriate for their intended use.
3. Materials should be appropriate to the maturity of the student.
4. Materials should present a reasonable balance of opposing sides of controversial issues so students may develop the practice of critical reading, viewing and thinking.
5. Materials shall be selected for their strengths rather than rejected for their weaknesses.
6. The value and impact of any library material(s) will be judged as a whole.
7. Materials shall present the varied aspects of our society and others.
8. Materials should accurately and thoroughly reflect the contributions and the role of minorities in our society.
9. Materials should accurately and thoroughly reflect the contributions and the role of women in our society.
10. Materials will not automatically be disqualified because they may contain potentially controversial materials. This decision will be made on the basis of whether the materials realistically deal with life and life's circumstances whether the materials are of value and are age appropriate for the population of a particular school. Materials about all major religions and religious philosophies will be included in the library collection.

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(current)