

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION

The Berlin Central School District Board of Education establishes that educational materials selected for use in the District shall be chosen in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Materials shall be selected by instructional and administrative personnel. Suggestions from students and members of the community are also welcome. Final recommendations for acquisition shall be an administrative responsibility, and shall rest with the Superintendent of schools or her/his designee.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the District's staff to recommend and select educational materials of the highest quality that will support the educational philosophy of the District.
3. Educational materials shall be considered for purchase on the basis of:
 - A. Overall purpose of the materials;
 - B. Timeliness or permanence of the of the content of the materials;
 - C. Importance of the subject matter;
 - D. Readability and popular appeal of the materials;
 - E. Materials' authority;
 - F. Reputation of the publisher or producer of the materials;
 - G. Reputation and significance of the author, artist, composer, or producer (e.g., editor, illustrator, compiler, advisory committee) of the materials; and
 - H. Materials' format and cost.
4. The factors cited in no.3, above, shall be applied in the following manner.
 - A. Materials selected will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and levels of maturity of the pupils.
 - B. Materials selected will stimulate the growth among students of factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
 - C. Materials selected will provide a background of information what enables pupils to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.

- D. Materials selected will present a reasonable balance of opposing sides of controversial issues, so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.
 - E. Materials selected will reflect the contributions to our society of the many ethnic, religious, and cultural groups one finds there, and will present the many and varied aspects of our culture and society.
 - F. The value and impact of any work will be judged as a whole, taking into account the intent of the creator rather than individual words, phrases, passages or incidents. Material shall not be excluded solely because of the author's race, religion, ethnicity, sex or political views.
5. With respect to certain critical areas the following rules shall be applied.
- A. RELIGION Material that surveys religion shall not be excluded for that reason.
 - B. IDEOLOGIES The District shall make available information on a variety of ideologies, philosophies, or points of view relative to an understanding of the world in which we live.
 - C. SEX & PROFANITY Incidents of sex or profanity shall not automatically disqualify material from purchase by the District. The character and maturity of the intended users of such materials must be considered by those selecting such materials.
 - D. GIFTS OF BOOKS
NON-BOOK
MATERIALS Gifts of books and non-book materials shall be evaluated and retained or discarded on the same basis as new materials added to the District's collection.
6. Materials shall be selected solely for their value in the educational process.
7. The instructional objectives of courses of study can be met through a variety of means. If a student or parent finds literature or instructional materials objectionable the instructor may provide alternate materials to achieve instructional objectives.

References

Education Law Secs. 701 etseq.; 1709(3),(4); 1711(5)(c),(d),(f);
8 NYCRR21.4
Bd. of Educ. of Island Trees UFSD No.26 v. Pico, 457 US 853 (1982)