

Instruction

Instructional Materials

All District classrooms and learning centers are equipped with an evenly-proportioned, wide assortment of instructional materials, including textbooks, audio-visual materials, and equipment selected to meet the students' needs. Textbooks and instructional materials shall provide high quality learning experiences for students and:

1. Align with the mission and beliefs of Community Unit School District 200;
2. Enrich and support the curriculum;
3. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
4. Provide background information to enable students to apply the skills of critical thinking, creative problem solving, analysis, and inquiry;
5. Depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society; and
6. Contribute to a sense of the worth of all people regardless of sex, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other differences that may exist.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide a list or description of textbooks and instructional materials used in the District to the School Board. Anyone may inspect any textbook or instructional material.

Teachers are encouraged to use supplemental material only when it will enhance, or otherwise illustrate, the subjects being taught and to ensure it is age-appropriate. No R-rated movie shall be shown to students unless prior approval is received from the Superintendent or designee, and no movie rated NC-17 (no one 17 and under admitted) shall be shown under any circumstances. These restrictions apply to television programs and other media with equivalent ratings.

Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption

Textbooks and instructional materials, both print and non-print, are selected based upon their quality and educational value, and must contribute to a general sense of the worth of all individuals regardless of sex, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, or any other differences which may exist.

Textbooks and ancillary materials shall be posted for at least 30 days prior to adoption and shall be adopted consistent with provisions of The School Code.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board for consideration and adoption all textbooks and instructional materials based upon the recommendations of the Curriculum Councils. The Superintendent's recommendation to the Board shall include the following information:

- recommended texts, including the title, publisher, copyright dates, number of copies desired and cost;
- texts being replaced, publisher and copyright dates;
- rationale for recommendation; and
- selection method.

High School teachers are required to provide students with a list of the novels that will be used for each class by the end of the second week of each semester. In addition, teachers will advise students of how they can be excused from reading an assigned novel for personal/family reasons. Students choosing to be excused from an assigned novel will be able to select an alternate novel from the approval list.

Other than in the study of film as an art form, the use of full-length commercial films in the classroom is discouraged as District 200 strives to be exemplary in terms of literacy and protection of valuable instruction time. Movies and clips rated PG-13 or R shall not be shown in preschool through grade 8. Movies and clips rated X or NC-17 shall not be shown to any students under any circumstances. The use of other (PG through grade 8, R through high school) commercial films and film clips in District classrooms shall be subject to building-level approval and parental notification and opt-in approval as prescribed in the attendant administrative regulations. Additionally, building administrators will monitor such film/clip usage, and may revoke approval of films/clips if they feel the usage of alternative materials warrants such action.

LEGAL REF.: General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.

105 ILCS 5/28-19.1 [ch. 122, ¶ 28-19.1].

105 ILCS 5/28-1 et seq. [Ill. Rev. Stat., ch. 122, ¶ 28-1 et seq.].

CROSS REF.: 6.260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs); 7.10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)

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