

# REGULATION

Rochester Community Schools  
Rochester, Michigan 48307

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## ADOPTION AND MAINTENANCE OF MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS

### Introduction

In a democratic society the selection of material for the instructional media centers and classrooms throughout the District is done with the needs of students foremost in mind. These needs, in general, require that each student be given opportunities to develop to their full potential in such diverse areas as self-realization, human-relationships, economic efficiency, and civic responsibility. To meet these needs the District offers students opportunities to develop academic skills, critical, analytical, and creative thinking, and moral and ethical values.

Schools should be the one place in the community where all ideas can be considered, analyzed, investigated, and discussed. It is the responsibility of the school to educate, not to indoctrinate. The purpose of education is to open minds, the purpose of indoctrination is to close minds to all but one mode of thought or point of view. While the school will reflect the mores, to prepare students to face the world of which the local community is only one part.

In a society whose system of values centers on the concept of individual freedom—freedom of opinion and freedom to express that opinion—and in a school system whose philosophy dictates that the student be the center of the system—safeguarding the intellectual freedom of individuals is vitally important...In other words, the central theme of the materials selection process is directly related to the intellectual freedom of the students...Allowing the individual the right to explore necessitates having a policy providing him with a maximum of intellectual freedom. (Harvey, James A., ed. Intellectual Freedom and School Libraries; and In-depth Case Study.)

Overall, the selection of resource materials should enhance the school district's responsibility to provide instruction in an atmosphere conducive to optimum achievement by all students.

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## Philosophy

Public education must insure that students be literate, well-informed, critical, objective and creative. It is essential that the traditions, morals, and ideals of our culture be presented and discussed in an objective manner.

The Rochester Community Schools endeavors to serve all of the children of the community, giving all the opportunity to participate, regardless of race, religion, sex, or marital status, in the total school program. In order to achieve this purpose, Rochester Community Schools strives to offer equal and maximum opportunity to all students to acquire a well-rounded and useful program for higher education and career training.

In a democratic society we believe that education plays a vital role in the preparation of each individual for adult life in the modern world. The school must provide educational opportunities for young people to discover and develop their unique capabilities, as well as to understand their limitations. The primary responsibility of the school is to provide instruction in an atmosphere conducive to optimum achievement by all students.

From a curriculum that is diversified in scope, the student is allowed to choose a program adjusted to their needs, capabilities and aesthetics. In providing for the development of the intellectual, aesthetic and physical potential of each student, the school assumes the role of leadership. In addition, the school acts to supplement the home, church, and community in the fostering of moral and social ideals. Acting together in this relationship, the school and community are providing the opportunity for the student to grow into a worthy, contributing member of society.

In keeping with the foregoing philosophy Rochester Community Schools recognizes the responsibilities outlined in the "Right to View" Statement (See Appendix I) and in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association the policies which apply specifically to all libraries and, in general, to all aspects of media selection and utilization:

- I. As a responsibility of media services, books, video, and other media materials should be chosen for values of interest, information, and

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- enlightenment of all people of the community. In no case should media materials be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the social, political, or religious view of the authors.
- II. Media Centers should provide books and other materials presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times; no media materials should be prescribed or removed from media centers because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
  - III. Censorship should be challenged by media centers in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment.
  - IV. Media centers should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
  - V. The rights of an individual to the use of a media center should not be denied or abridged because of his age, race, religion, national origins, or social or political views.
  - VI. As an institution of education for democratic living, the media center should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members, provided that the meeting is open to the public.

## Purpose

- A. To implement the philosophy of the Rochester Community Schools in the media program as it relates to both the Media Center and the classroom.
- B. To insure system-wide uniformity of policy in the classroom and the Media Center.
- C. To guarantee continuity of program regardless of instructional, media, and administrative staff changes.

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- D. To insure the best possible expenditure of funds.
- E. To identify responsibility for materials selection.
- F. To strive toward meeting ALA (American Library Association) media program philosophy.
- G. To meet accreditation requirements as established by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- H. To insure that the procedures for handling questioned materials, follow established guidelines and are clearly defined.

## Goals

- A. To meet the needs of students of differing abilities, backgrounds, and interests, thus enabling them both to adjust to and influence the changing society in which they live.
- B. To utilize current educational technology and communication theories.
- C. To promote, through the use of media, the acquisition and strengthening of skills in reading, ciphering, writing, observing, listening, and communication ideals.
- D. To promote learner interaction with others, the development of a spirit of inquiry, the achievement of greater self-motivation, discipline, and capacity for self-evaluation.
- E. To contribute to the life experience of students and their individual fulfillment.
- F. To promote the intellectual, cultural, social, and ethical development of students and to provide materials which extend and deepen the experiences encompassed in the curriculum.

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- G. To support the principles of intellectual freedom, and to insure that the basic rights of each student are met as reflected in the ALA Library Bill of Rights and the National Council of Teachers of English Student Right to Read Statement and the EFLA's Right to View Statement.
- H. To support the principles of intellectual and academic freedom with respect to the right of the teacher to choose those materials which best meet both individual goals and the broad goals of education.

## Responsibility for Material Selection

### Legal

The ultimate responsibility for the selection of media resides with the Rochester Community Schools Board of Education.

### Supervision

The Board of Education delegates administrative authority to the building administrators in the area of media selection.

### Implementation

The Board and the Administration delegate the actual selection of materials to instructional media specialists and classroom teachers who administer the instructional materials collectively. This responsibility is exercised under the supervision of the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and with the consideration of requests for media materials by Administration, faculty, parents, and students.

### Criteria Used for Media Selection

In the selection of media materials to meet our goals we will endeavor to:

- A. Provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.

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- B. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge media appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
- C. To provide materials that will give a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgement in their daily lives.
- D. To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that students may develop under guidance the practice of critical analysis of all media.
- E. To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to our American heritage.
- F. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the students.
- G. To use as guides reliable professional selection tools, lists and reviewing media or to base a choice on professional examination and judgement.
- H. To achieve systematic selection so that resulting collections of school media resources and other supplementary materials will be balanced and thereby serve the total instructional program.
- I. To encourage the previewing of audio-visual materials by the appropriate professional school staff before purchases.

## Gift Material

Rochester Community Schools welcomes gift material of any media which meet the criteria outlined in this policy. All gifts must be accepted by the Board of Education. Each gift should be presented to the Board on the recommendation of the professional staff involved who will judge each item on its individual merit. The professional and the donor, if so desired, may select materials to be purchased with gift money.

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## Labeling

Labeling is the practice of describing certain materials by affixing a prejudicial label to them or by segregating them by a prejudicial system so as to predispose the readers' attitude toward the material. Therefore, there will be no labeling. This includes any and all films and program for public broadcast.

## Discarding

The annual review of media to remove physically deteriorated or obsolete materials is necessary to maintain active collections.

## Intellectual Freedom Statement

In the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution, the founders of our nation proclaimed certain fundamental freedoms to be essential to our form of government. Primary among these is the freedom of expression, specifically, the right to publish diverse opinions and the right to unrestricted access to those opinions.

We serve the education process of disseminating the knowledge and wisdom required for the growth of the mind and the expansion of learning. We cannot foster true education by imposing on others the structure and content of our own opinions. We must preserve and enhance the student's right to a broader range of ideas than those held by any media specialist, teacher, parent, church, or government. We hold that it is wrong to limit any person to those ideas and that information another believes to be true, good, and proper.

Approved: December 5, 1994

Revised: June 1, 2004

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## APPENDIX I

The freedom to view, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship to any medium of expression. Therefore, we affirm these principles:

1. It is in the public interest to provide the broadest possible access to films and other audiovisual materials because they have proven to be among the most effective means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. It is in the public interest to provide for our audiences, films and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
3. It is our professional responsibility to resist the constraint of labeling or prejudging a film on the basis of the moral, religious or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker on the basis of controversial content.
4. It is our professional responsibility to contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

Adopted in February of 1979 by the EFLA Board of Directors