

TEXTBOOK SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The Board of Education (the Board) of the Bethlehem Central School District (the District) delegates responsibility to the professional staff for the selection of textbooks, library resources, and other instructional materials.

The superintendent or designee shall establish objectives and criteria for selection of textbooks and a method for selecting staff members who shall serve in the selection and recommendation process.

The following criteria are to be considered in the selection of textbooks:

1. qualifications of the author(s) on the subject;
2. adaptability to existing instructional program;
3. accuracy of the information presented;
4. sufficient scope to meet the requirements of the curriculum as developed locally and approved by the State Education Department;
5. objectivity and impartiality in treatment of subject matter and freedom from bias and prejudice;
6. high quality format in respect to typography, arrangement of materials or pages, cover design, size, and margins;
7. appropriateness to grade level as to vocabulary, sentence structure, and organization;
8. meet grade-to-grade requirements: they should contain supplementary aids to learning, when desirable and necessary, such as a table of contents, introduction, study activities, exercises, questions, problems, selected references, bibliography, index, glossary, and appendices;
9. should include appropriate illustrative materials: pictures, maps, charts, graphs, diagrams, etc., which clarify the text and enrich the content;
10. should fairly represent the many ethnic and cultural groups and their contribution to American heritage; and
11. a reasonable balance of viewpoints regarding controversial issues should be presented.

The following criteria are to be considered in the selection of literary works for classroom use in teaching literature, as well as the assignment of such works to particular grade levels:

1. use of a compositional style that contributes to the reader's critical and appreciative understanding of the work;
2. sophisticated use of literary devices (i.e., metaphor, point of view, tone) to further student understanding of written concepts;
3. levels of student maturity and experience necessary for empathic reading of literature;
4. capacity of a work to capture student interest;
5. thematic treatment that promotes sound and healthy values for students;
6. intrinsic qualities that establish a work as a significant part of the literary heritage; and
7. sufficient variety to avoid duplication of theme, plot, setting, etc., unless such duplication affords opportunities for comparison and contrast or serves to reinforce understanding.

Cross-ref: 1420, Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials

Ref: Education Law §§701 et seq.; 1711; 2508; 2566

Adoption date: June 19, 2002

Revised date: March 20, 2019