

## **LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION**

The continuous review of library materials is necessary as a means of maintaining a useful and active collection. As new materials are selected and added, some older materials are withdrawn. The following general selection criteria will apply to all library materials, including electronic, print, and non-print resources:

Library materials shall support and be consistent with, Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, Common Core State Standards and the general educational goals of the state and district and the aims and objectives of the individual schools and specific curricula.

Library materials shall meet high standards of quality in factual content accuracy, authenticity, clarity, artistic and literary value, and presentation (including special features such as: tables of contents, indexes, illustrations, photographs, maps, charts, graphs).

Library materials shall be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social development of students for whom materials are selected.

Library materials shall support and foster an appreciation for both information and recreational reading, viewing, and listening.

Library materials shall meet the curriculum needs of students and staff.

Physical format of library materials shall be suitable for their intended use.

Every possible effort will be made to keep Library materials current and up-to-date.

Library materials shall be selected to help students gain an awareness of our diverse society.

Library materials shall be selected for their strengths rather than rejected for their weakness, examining the value of any work as a whole.

Materials selected for controversial issues will present fair and unbiased information and will be directed towards maintaining a diverse collection representing various views.

The responsibility for determining which materials shall be withdrawn shall rest with the professional staff in accordance with the laws and policies pertaining to materials purchased with public funds.

Among the reasons for withdrawing an item shall be the following:

Curricular changes have rendered as superfluous materials (or multiple copies of materials) formerly used but no longer in demand.

Materials contain information which is no longer accurate or current.

Materials intended for recreational reading have become dated or unattractive and are no longer in demand.

Some books which are deemed standards or classics shall be retained even though they rarely circulate.

Materials have worn out, been damaged or physically deteriorated, and have lost utility, and/or appeal.

Materials have been superseded by newer items which present the same information but in superior format.

The responsibility for media selection, as for all library activity, rests with the librarian who operates within the framework of policies determined by the School Committee, and administered by the School Principal and ultimately approved by the superintendent of schools or by his/her designee.

Final authority for the determination of policy in the selection and acquisitions of materials is vested in the elected members of the Wareham School Committee.

### **School Library Bill of Rights**

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 13, 1989

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WAREHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS