

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY
Series: I03 School - Library Materials

3.01 General. A wide variety of school library materials is needed to support the philosophy, goals and instructional programs. The primary objectives in selecting library materials are: a) to support all areas of the curriculum, and b) to meet the needs, abilities, interests and maturity levels of students.

3.02 Library Bill of Rights. The Board endorses the *Library Bill of Rights* adopted by the American Library Association Council as follows:

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. Libraries which 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.

3.03 School Responsibility. Each school shall be responsible for establishing selection and acquisition procedures that will take into consideration the students' cultural backgrounds, curricular needs as well as budgetary factors of the school.

3.04 Basic Selection Principles For School Library Materials. The process of examining and evaluating materials under consideration for acquisition is continuous. Materials that are under consideration for acquisition should be previewed. However, selection may be made for biographical tools, selected lists and reviews that appear in library and educational journals. Gifts, free and inexpensive materials sponsored materials should be evaluated on the same standards observed in the selection of purchased materials. Library materials shall:

- 3.05.1** Meet high standards of quality in content and presentation;
- 3.05.2** Be appropriate to the ability, need and interest of the student;
- 3.05.3** Be suitable for the grade level and various subject areas;
- 3.05.4** Be objectively and impartially selected to provide a balanced collection; and,

3.05.5 Be selected for their strength and value. The value and impact of a literary work must be examined as a whole and not in part - the impact of the entire work being more important than the word, phrase or incidents out of which it is made.

3.05 Reconsideration Of Library Materials. Despite both the care taken to select appropriate materials for student and teacher use and the qualifications of the persons who select materials, occasionally there will be objections to selections. When parents or guardians of a student who is in the school where the objected to material is located, make a complaint about a selection (see Appendix for the appropriate complaint form), the selection will be addressed by the Principal of the school, who may consult with teachers in the building, Assistant Superintendents, and the Superintendent before responding to the parent or guardian.

Parents and guardians may request alternative reading selections be provide specifically to their child under a separate county policy.

APPENDIX 1

Form 1 - Parent's or Guardian's Request For Reconsideration of School Library Materials.

School: _____

Type of Material: Book Film
 Periodical Other _____

Title: _____ Author: _____

Student's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____ Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

The following questions are to be answered after the complainant has read, viewed or listened to the library material in its entirety. If sufficient space is not provided, attach additional sheets (please sign each additional sheet).

1. To what in the material do you object? Please be specific.

2. What do you believe is the purpose or theme of the material?

3. What do you feel might be the result of a student using the material?

4. For what age group would you recommend this material?

5. Is there anything good in this material? _____ Please comment:

6. Would you care to recommend other school library material of the same subject and format?

Signature of Complainant

Date

Please return completed form to the school principal.