

Educational Material Selection Policy

Educational materials, curriculum, topics and required texts shall be consistent with the mission, vision statement, and values of the school. Materials will be chosen based on their relevance and ability to effectively teach state standards and carefully crafted learning targets. Materials will be curated through grades K-12 to ensure appropriate academic rigor and prepare students for post high school experiences.

Material for students should be inspirational, educational, and/or motivational. It should generally point to human options for making good choices in the midst of challenges, bettering communities, and improving the welfare of families and nations. Primarily cynical, dark, or hopeless reading material is to be avoided. This does not mean that we don't address challenging aspects of life, only that we avoid material that portrays a mostly cynical or hopeless orientation.

Material should help students to understand a given issue from a variety of *disciplined* perspectives on multiple sides of issues. Robust discussion of issues and diversity of disciplined opinion is encouraged.

Some topics and material involve aspects of human experience that are of heightened concern in elementary and high school education settings. Five areas of particular concern are violence, drug abuse, profanity/vulgarity, human sexuality, and highly controversial social or political issues. Prohibitions and guidance on these areas of concern are outlined below.

Prohibitions and Guidance

Pornographic or indecent materials as defined in Utah Code Sections 76-10-1235, 76-10-1201, 76-10-1203, and 76-10-1227 are strictly prohibited as they are deemed "harmful to minors". Material is considered harmful where the quality of any description or representation, in whatsoever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse:

- taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest in sex of minors;
- is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for minors; and
- taken as a whole, does not have serious value for minors.

K-5

Material that contains profanity/vulgarity, violence, drug abuse, or controversial social or political issues may not be required reading, nor shall it be optional reading provided by the teacher as, for instance, a choice among three.

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Material that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for students in K-5 is prohibited.

Material that contains human sexuality content is prohibited, except as provided through the approved human sexuality education curriculum.

6-8

Material should avoid profanity, sexual content, graphic violence & drug abuse.

When material is deemed to have exceptional literary value or specific instructional importance, but also contains potentially objectionable material (such as an occasional swear word) that does not violate the “harmful to minors” definition above or age appropriate guidelines, it may be used after the teacher consults with administration. In such cases, students and their parents will be provided with a content advisory and other material will be offered as an alternative choice. No preference will be indicated in the presentation of options.

Material that contains graphic or otherwise explicit sexual content is prohibited. Furthermore, material that contains sexually implicit language, or where sex/sensuality, or other adult material is regularly present as jokes or innuendo, is prohibited.

Material that deals with extremely controversial or socially/politically charged topics is to be avoided unless judged appropriate for the circumstances, state standards, and specific learning targets. Under such circumstances, the material may be used after consulting with administration. The material must be approached carefully and with a good faith effort to provide a balance of *disciplined* perspectives. It is prohibited to address a controversial or divisive topic with the intention to persuade students toward, or strategically expose them to, a particular position or outlook favored by the teacher, as opposed to an effort to more objectively understand various sides of a controversial or divisive issue.

High School

Material in general should avoid gratuitous profanity, sexuality, graphic violence or drug abuse, even if only present as jokes or innuendo. Material that contains pornographic or indecent sexual content (as defined above) is prohibited.

When material is deemed to have exceptional literary value or specific instructional importance, but also contains potentially objectionable material, it may be used after the teacher consults with administration (objectionable material might include some profanity, indirect reference to sex, graphic violence, or drug abuse references/description). In such cases, students and their parents will be provided with a content advisory and other material will be offered as an alternative choice, such as among three. No preference will be indicated in the presentation of options.

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Material that deals with extremely controversial or socially/politically charged topics is to be avoided unless judged appropriate for the circumstances, state standards for the course, and specific learning targets. Under such circumstances, the material may be used after consulting with administration. The material must be approached carefully and with a good faith effort to provide a balance of *disciplined* perspectives. It is prohibited to address a controversial or divisive topic with the intention to persuade students toward, or strategically expose them to, a particular position or outlook favored by the teacher, as opposed to an effort to more objectively understand various sides of a controversial or divisive issue.

A [guide](#) will be provided by administration for teachers to assist in the selection of educational material.