

## **Instruction**

### **Instructional Materials: Provision/Selection/Care**

#### **Provision**

The Board of Education shall provide educational materials and equipment that support and enrich the curriculum and further the achievement of the school system's instructional goals.

Textbooks, instructional materials, and equipment shall be furnished by the Board of Education for all district students. The following exceptions apply:

1. Individual project materials to be used in the industrial arts, homemaking, and art courses.
2. Materials to be used for special projects not required for credit in a course.
3. Personal clothing items worn for physical education and other in-school athletic activities.

#### **Selection**

Instructional materials, including textbooks, should be updated as part of the ongoing curriculum development cycle. The following guidelines should be used in order to select the most appropriate instructional materials:

1. Instructional materials, including textbooks, should be aligned with the written curriculum. These materials are used to implement the curriculum, not to replace the curriculum.
2. The curriculum committee for a given subject area should develop criteria for selection of instructional materials and evaluate materials according to that criteria.
3. Instructional materials should provide students with activities designed to foster higher order thinking skills.
4. Instructional materials should foster a respect for cultural and ethnic diversity.
5. Teachers should have in-service training in the use of new curricular materials prior to implementation of the materials.
6. Instructional materials should be developmentally appropriate for students.

The administration will develop a process for the selection of new instructional materials that meet the above criteria. By statute the Board will make the final selection decision for new textbooks. Other instructional materials will be selected by the certified staff.

## Instruction

### Instructional Materials: Provision/Selection/Care (continued)

#### Selection of Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Material

Student reading assignments and other instructional material shall be selected with regard to a student's maturity and capacity to understand the material.

However, no students shall be required to read material which their parents/guardians find distasteful for any ethical or religious reason.

#### Care

A record shall be kept of all district-owned books which are issued to students in the elementary and secondary schools of the district. The record shall include the specific number of the book, the condition of the book at the time it is issued and the name of the student to whom issued.

Every book issued shall bear the stamp of the Waterford Public Schools.

Each teacher shall conduct regular book inspections. When a textbook is damaged or lost, the student responsible shall be required to pay an assessment of the cost of replacing the book.

(cf. 1220 - Citizens' Ad Hoc Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1312 - Public Complaints)

(cf. 4118.21 - Academic Freedom)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year olds. (as amended by P.A. 80-405)

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules. (as amended by 81-257; 82-137 re sanctions that may be imposed against pupils who damage or fail to return textbooks, library materials or other educational materials)

10-228 Free textbooks, supplies, material and equipment. 10-229 Change of textbooks.

*President's Council, District 25 v. Community School Board no. 25*, 457 F.2d 289 (1972), cert. denied 409 U.S.C. 998 (Nov. 1972)

*Minarcini v. Strongsville City School District*, 541 F.2d 577 (6th Cir. 1976).

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)

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WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Waterford, Connecticut