

Manhattan Community School Library Selection Development Policy

The Selection of Library Media Center material reflects the educational philosophy, instructional goals, the instructional materials selection policy of the Manhattan School District and Montana Office of Public Instruction. It is the objective of the Manhattan Public School Libraries to provide a wide range of materials on all appropriate levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view. In support of these objectives, the Manhattan School Board, Manhattan City Board, and the Library Board reaffirm the principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the School Library Bill of Rights, endorsed by the American Association of School Librarian in 1969.

In order to educate each patron to the fullest, a wide variety of materials should be provided to meet curricular needs and the greatest possible diversity of student and public patron interests. These materials will consist of both print and non-print media, including library books, periodicals, audio, and audio visual materials.

Selection Criteria

Library materials will be carefully evaluated based on the following selection standards and guidelines. In most instances, the selected materials should meet a significant number of the criteria listed below, although a single resource need not meet all the criteria in order to be selected. Materials will be selected for their strengths rather than rejected for their weaknesses.

- Standard 1 Materials shall be consistent with and provide both support and enrichment for the school district's general educational goals, its selected program goals, and the objectives of specific courses.
- Standard 2 Materials shall meet high standards of quality in content and format.
- Standard 3 Materials shall be appropriate for the ability level, emotional and social development of the patrons for whom the materials are selected.
- Standard 4 Materials shall promote growth in factual knowledge and critical thinking.
- Standard 5 Materials shall represent various points of view even when those opinions represented are controversial. The inclusion of such controversial materials does not imply endorsement of those ideas by district personnel.
- Standard 6 Materials shall stimulate growth in the areas of literary appreciation, asocial and aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
- Standard 7 Materials shall represent the contributions of all people regardless of age, sex, religion, ethnic or cultural origin.

Standard 8 In accordance to State requirements, the Native American Collection will be weeded, developed, and maintained to include items which are historically and culturally accurate about the Native Americans in Montana and the nation. Materials related to Native American cultures that represent those cultures in a stereotypical manner will be weeded from the library. New materials will be screened for appropriateness prior to purchase.