

Pittsfield School District

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board is responsible for all instructional materials used in the district. All instructional materials will be selected based on their ability to provide quality learning experiences for students in which they:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum;
2. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic value, and ethical standards;
3. Provide background information to enable students to make intelligent judgments;
4. Present opposing sides of controversial issues;
5. Represent the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups that contribute to our American heritage;
6. Depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of the American Society; and
7. Match the appropriate skill and developmental levels of students.

Administrators and teachers may select instructional materials from a variety of media including but not limited to books, online/internet materials, equipment, newspapers, other media, and instructional technologies. Selection of such materials should be made only after a determination that such materials are age appropriate, provide quality learning experiences, and fit within the district's educational goals and philosophies.

Each school shall provide instructional resources, including those available online or through interlibrary loan, which provide instruction in:

1. Accessing information efficiently and effectively;
2. Evaluating information and sources critically and competently;
3. Citing sources and not plagiarizing;
4. Using information accurately and creatively;
5. Pursuing information related to personal interests;

6. Appreciating literature and other creative expressions of information;
7. Striving for excellence in information-seeking and knowledge generation;
8. Recognizing the importance of information to a democratic society;
9. Practicing ethical behavior in regard to information and information technology;
and
10. Participating effectively in groups to pursue and generate information.

Basic instructional course material in the fundamental skill areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies shall be reviewed at intervals not exceeding five years. All instructional materials must be sequential and must be compatible with previous and future offerings.

Instructional resources maintained by the district shall be catalogued and classified in accordance with applicable Department of Education rules and should be managed under policies and procedures designed to maximize their use.

Instructional Resources Plan. The superintendent is directed to prepare, maintain, and implement a written plan for the ongoing development, organization, acquisition, maintenance, replacement, and updating of instructional resources necessary to support the needs of the user population and the approved curriculum. The plan shall conform to applicable Department of Education requirements (Ed 306.08 (a) (4) and (b)) and should be presented to the School Board every three years for periodic review.

Reading: December 10, 2009
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