

SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

ADOPTION NOTES – This text box and the disclaimer should be removed prior to adoption.

(a) General – As with all model policies, VSBA recommends that each board carefully review this model prior to adoption to assure suitability with the district’s own specific circumstances, internal coding system, current policies, and organizational structures.

Highlighted language or blank, underscored spaces indicate areas which Boards must change/complete to reflect local personnel titles, policy references, duty assignments etc.

(b) Legal references are listed for convenience, but do not need to be included in the policy as adopted.

(c) Any model policies listed under “cross-reference” indicate a reference to another related VSBA model policy. A district should check its own current policies to assure internal consistency.

(d) Withdrawn and earlier versions of revised policies should be maintained separately as part of the permanent records of the District.

Policy

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The school library plays an important role in helping students to inquire, to study and evaluate information, and to gain new understandings and knowledge. Therefore, library materials provided by the _____ School District (District), regardless of technology, format, or methods of delivery, should be readily, equally, and equitably accessible to all students.

This policy exists to ensure that the District provides access to a diverse library collection, that supports students in the curriculum, their personal research, and recreational reading, and that sustains students’ First Amendment Rights to access information and to read freely.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

1. **Library Materials** include all materials considered part of the library collection, including but not limited to print, digital, and media production resources. Library materials may be found in both physical and virtual library spaces.
2. **Educational Technology** means instruction and/or preparation in the appropriate use of current technology to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to communicate, solve problems, and to access, manage, integrate, evaluate and create information.^[1]
3. **Diverse library collection** means that the library collection intentionally contains content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences, including those from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities.

[1] SBE Rule 2114 (Definition of Educational Technology)

Access to Instructional Materials ^[2]

Each school shall:

- a. provide a learning environment with sufficient supplies and infrastructure to allow for learning;
- b. develop, maintain, and expand as needed a library collection of print, digital and technology resources, administered by a certified library media specialist;
- c. ensure that the curriculum is supported by necessary digital and print resources;
- d. ensure that students, educators, administrators, and staff have access to an organized collection of digital and print materials sufficient and appropriate to support all students in meeting or exceeding the current state and national standards at no cost to the student;
- e. provide students access to the library on a regular basis to use materials for reading, research, and for instruction in the skills needed to select and use information effectively;
- f. provide access to a variety of up-to-date information, assistive, and other technology to support students in meeting or exceeding the standards;
- g. provide broadband internet service for students and educators to access educational resources;
- h. adopt and implement written policies on electronic resources, acceptable internet usage, and procedures for handling complaints for both staff and students;
- i. support a schedule that provides opportunities for a library media specialist to collaborate with educators as they integrate information research skills into their curriculum; and
- j. ensure that students are afforded the opportunity to learn the skills to locate, evaluate, synthesize, and to present information and ideas within content areas using technology integration.

Administrative Responsibilities

The superintendent or designee will develop and implement procedures that address the selection of library materials and the provision of access to those materials. The superintendent or designee will develop procedures to address:

- a. selection of materials;
- b. deselection of materials;
- c. donations of materials; and
- d. reconsideration of materials.

The superintendent or designee will ensure that the District provides services of a certified library media specialist to students and staff. Schools with over 300 students shall have at least one full-time library media specialist and sufficient staff to implement a program that supports literacy, information and technology standards. Schools with fewer than 300 students shall employ a library media specialist on a pro-rata basis.^[3]

[2] SBE Rule 2122.2 (Access to Instructional Materials)

[3] SBE Rule 2121.2 (Staff)

Use of School Library Materials and Resources

The library media specialist may consult with faculty, the student body, community members and organizations to develop library collections that are diverse, inclusive, and representative of the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic groups and social groups.

At the discretion of the building principal, students, staff, and family members of the District may be allowed use of library materials and resources. However, such access shall not interfere with regular school use of those materials and resources.

<i>VSBA Version:</i>	<i>May 11, 2022</i>
<i>Date Warned:</i>	
<i>Date Adopted:</i>	
<i>Legal Reference(s):</i>	<i>16 V.S.A. §563(14) (Powers of school boards) State Board of Education Rules 2121.2 (Staff) State Board of Education Rules 2114 (Definition of Technology Integration) State Board of Education Rules 2122.2 (Access to Instructional Materials)</i>
<i>Cross Reference:</i>	<i>District Equity Policy (C29) Selection of Instructional Materials (D32)</i>

DISCLAIMER: This model policy has been prepared by the Vermont School Boards Association for the sole and exclusive use of VSBA members, as a resource to assist member school boards with their policy development. School Districts should consult with legal counsel and revise model policies to address local facts and circumstances prior to adoption, unless the model policy states otherwise. VSBA continually makes revisions based on school districts' needs and local, state and federal laws, regulations and court decisions, and other relevant education activity.