

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: LIBRARY MATERIALS

DATE ADOPTED: April 2, 2024

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Colchester School District (District) to provide students with a broad variety of library materials that promote student learning and areas of individual interests, provide equitable access to learning for all students, and build a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

Library materials provide 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. Library materials provided by the District, regardless of technology, format, or methods of delivery, should be readily, equally, and equitably accessible to all students.

Instructional materials provide opportunities for each student to successfully engage in curriculum, meet graduation requirements aligned with Vermont standards, and promote opportunities for personalization.

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The school library plays an important role in helping students gain skills, understandings and knowledge, and enjoyment of reading. Therefore, library materials provided by the 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

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, as well as classroom libraries.

Diverse Library Collection are the library materials and resources that intentionally contain content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of

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First Reading: February 20, 2024
Second Reading: March 5, 2024
Third Reading: April 2, 2024

ideas, information, stories, and experiences, including those from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Instructional Materials are the materials and supplies for academic, social-emotional, and physical learning in classrooms.

CSD Community Member is a resident of Colchester or a guardian of a student enrolled in the District.

ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The school library plays an important role in helping students to inquire, study and evaluate information, and to gain new understandings and knowledge.

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 in school/on campus 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;
- 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;
- K. Provide access to diverse library collections that promote equitable learning for all students and are in alignment with the District's Equity Policy; and
- L. Promote personal growth, interests and an enjoyment of reading.

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 library materials;
- B. Deselection of library materials;
- C. Donation of library materials; and
- D. Reconsideration of library materials.

Colchester community members may request reconsideration of library materials. All concerns regarding the selection of library materials shall be directed to the superintendent for handling consistent with those procedures.

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/caregiver 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.

Legal Reference

16 V.S.A §563 (14)

State Board of Education Rule Series 2122.2 (Access to Instructional Materials)

Resources

CSD Equity Policy, [Colchester School District Policies](#)

[Library Bill of Rights](#), American Library Association

[Freedom to Read Statement](#), American Library Association