

Douglas County Selection Policy

Selection Philosophy

We believe that in a free society, individuals have the right to determine what they wish to read, view and hear, and groups are free to determine what they will recommend to their members. It is inevitable that in the give and take of the democratic process the political, moral or aesthetic values of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group.

We believe that students of the Douglas County School System should have access to resources that will support and enrich the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.

We further believe that the Douglas County School System should contribute to the development of the social, intellectual, moral, and spiritual values of its students.

We believe our schools are concerned with generating an understanding of American freedoms and the preservation of these freedoms through the development of informed, responsible citizens.

We believe that resources should be available which stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.

We believe that students should have access to resources which treat various sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of

critical reading, viewing, listening, and thinking.

We believe that resources should be available which are representative of many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and that inform students of their contributions to our American heritage.

We believe that media and other staff members, as teachers, have a special position in the training and guidance of students and must therefore assume a special responsibility in selecting resources.

We believe that the provision of a comprehensive media program requires that principle be placed above personal opinion in the selection of resources.

Selection Priorities

Priorities for selection of resources and expenditure of funds shall be established so as to:

- assure compliance with the Standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- follow recommendations of building and system media committees
- meet other local school and system goals.

Criteria for Evaluation of Resources

Resources shall be evaluated on the basis of their potential contribution to the attainment of system goals and their appropriateness for the purposes and grade levels for which they are selected. Criteria shall include compatibility with the following.

- school system selection philosophy

- system curriculum guides
- teaching strategies of staff
- contents of existing collection of resources

Selection decisions should be based on favorable critical analysis found in professional review sources or evaluation using the following criteria.

- purpose
- authority
- content
- format
- scope and depth
- appeal

These criteria shall apply to locally-produced resources, gifts, information sources outside the school and other non-school owned resources as well as items purchased with school or system funds.