

Adopted: 8.19.25

Revised:

Selection and Review of Library and Instructional Materials Policy - 602

Purpose

This policy guides the selection of instructional texts, library resources, and materials within Swan River Montessori Charter School (SRMCS).

General Statement of Policy

The SRMCS School Board acknowledges that selecting instructional texts and materials is a critical aspect of the school's curriculum and library program. The School Board affirms its authority to make final decisions regarding the selection of all instructional and library materials.

Responsibility for Selection

While the SRMCS School Board retains ultimate authority in selecting instructional texts and materials, it recognizes the importance of professional staff expertise in making recommendations. The School Board delegates this responsibility to the Executive Director or their designee. The School Board will periodically request updates from the Executive Director regarding the use of this authority.

In the selection process, professional staff will prioritize materials that:

1. Align with SRMCS academic standards.
2. Are appropriate for the age and maturity levels of students.
3. Encourage respect for cultural diversity and differing opinions.
4. Conform to the school's budgetary constraints.
5. Are primarily in English, with exceptions for world language courses or statutory requirements (Minn. Stat. § 124D.61).
6. Allow for the study of foundational American documents, including those that contributed to the creation and preservation of the nation's representative government, the Bill of Rights, its free-market system, and national pride.

7. Avoid censorship of American or Minnesota history based on religious references in original documents, speeches, writings, or proclamations.

The Executive Director or their designee is responsible for creating procedures and guidelines to ensure an efficient, transparent, and inclusive process for reviewing and recommending instructional and library materials. These guidelines will provide opportunities for input from students, parents, and the broader community and may involve advisory committees in coordination with curriculum and library development efforts.

Selection and Review Process

The Executive Director or their designee will keep the SRMCS School Board informed about the progress of the instructional and library materials review and selection process.

Request for Review of Instructional or Library Materials

The SRMCS School Board acknowledges that differing opinions may arise regarding materials used in the school. The school will provide a process for families and community members to request a review of specific texts or materials.

The Executive Director or their designee will develop clear procedures for requesting the reconsideration of instructional or library materials.

Controversial Issues

Controversial issues may be addressed at SRMCS if the following criteria are met:

1. The issue is relevant to the course of study or current events and offers opportunities for critical thinking, empathy, and understanding different viewpoints.
2. The issue is meaningful to students' concerns.
3. Sufficient factual information is available to present alternative viewpoints.
4. All perspectives are fairly represented and supported by established facts.
5. The issue can be understood and defined by students.
6. Staff do not use their position to express personal religious, political, economic, or social biases with the intent to persuade students.
7. Discussions arise from students, current events, or established curriculum—not from external sources.

8. Discussions respect all individuals, avoiding negative portrayals based on protected classes as outlined in SRMCS Policy 413.
9. Presentations (oral or written) comply with state and federal laws.

The Executive Director has the authority to assess whether these conditions are met.

Legal References

- Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction – Knowledge and Skills)
- Minn. Stat. § 120B.235 (American Heritage Education)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 2 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (School Board Responsibilities)
- Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.59 – 124D.61 (Education for English Learners Act)
- Minn. Stat. § 127A.10 (State Officials and School Board Members to be Disinterested; Penalty)
- *Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)
- *Pratt v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 831*, 670 F.2d 771 (8th Cir. 1982)