



DISTRICT OFFICES
Tom Flanagan, Superintendent
150 Colchester Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-5332
tflanagan@bsdvt.org

BSD Policy D8

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

CODE D8: SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

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. This policy exists to ensure compliance with 16 V.S.A. § 1624, requiring Burlington School District affirm the importance of intellectual freedom, guided by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Vermont laws prohibiting discrimination in places of public accommodation, the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement (June, 2004), Vermont's Freedom to Read Statement (January, 2024), and reflect Vermont's diverse people and history, including diversity of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, and political beliefs.

School library staff shall be responsible for curating and developing collections that provide students with access to a wide array of materials that are relevant to students' research, independent reading interests, and educational needs, as well as ensuring such materials are tailored to the cognitive and emotional levels of the children served by the school.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy and administrative rules and procedures developed pursuant to 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. **Technology Integration** refers to the infusion of technology into the curriculum as a tool to enhance learning in a content area or multidisciplinary setting, enabling students to select technology tools to help them obtain information in a timely manner, analyze and synthesize the information, and present it in culturally, linguistically, and age-appropriate ways.

Administrative Responsibilities

The superintendent or designee will:

1. 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, prohibiting the removal of school library materials for the following reasons:
 - i. partisan approval or disapproval;
 - ii. the author's race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, political views, or religious views;
 - iii. school board members' or members of the public's discomfort, personal morality, political views, or religious views;
 - iv. the author's point of view concerning the problems and issues of our time, whether international, national, or local;

- v. the race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, political views, or religious views of the protagonist or other characters; or
- vi. content related to sexual health that addresses physical, mental, emotional, or social dimensions of human sexuality, including puberty, sex, and relationships.
- 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 as required in state standards.

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<i>Legal Reference(s):</i>	<i>United States Constitution, 1st Amendment</i> <i>Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 1971 et seq.</i> <i>Vermont Public Accommodations Act</i> <i>16 V.S.A. § 1624(b) (Prohibition of removal of library materials)</i> <i>16 V.S.A. § 1624(c) (Library Staff Responsibility)</i> <i>State Board of Education Rules 2110-2114 (Definitions)</i>
<i>Cross Reference:</i>	<i>District Equity Policy</i> <i>Selection of and Access to Instructional Materials</i>