

Instruction

Instructional Materials

All District classrooms and learning centers are equipped with a wide assortment of teaching tools, textbooks, audio-visual materials, and equipment selected to meet the students' needs. Textbooks and instructional materials shall provide high quality learning experiences for students and:

1. Align with the mission and beliefs of Community Unit School District 200;
2. Enrich and support the curriculum;
3. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
4. Provide background information to enable students to apply the skills of critical thinking, creative problem solving, analysis, and inquiry;
5. Present opposing sides of controversial issues consistent with Policy 6.80;
6. Be representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage-
7. Depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society.

A list of District-approved instructional materials shall be reviewed annually by the Department of Educational Services and shall be made available to the Board of Education, professional staff, and the District 200 community. In addition to specifically approved materials, teachers may incorporate into the classroom experience a variety of supplemental materials, strategies, and activities that will enhance or otherwise illustrate the subjects being taught. All supplemental materials must be age-appropriate and must adhere to the requirements of District-approved classroom materials as specified in this policy.

All teachers are required to provide students with a list of the novels that will be used for each class by the end of the first week of each semester. In addition, teachers will advise students of how they can be excused from reading an assigned novel for personal/family reasons. Students choosing to be excused from an assigned novel will be able to select an alternate novel from the approval list.

Other than in the study of film as an art form, the use of full-length commercial films in the classroom is discouraged as District 200 strives to be exemplary in terms of literacy and protection of valuable instruction time. Movies and clips rated PG-13 or higher shall not be shown in preschool through grade 8. Movies and clips rated X or NC-17 and foreign films

unrated by the MPAA shall not be shown to any students under any circumstances. The use of other (PG through grade 8, R through high school) commercial films and film clips in District classrooms shall be subject to building-level approval and parental notification and opt-in approval as prescribed in the attendant administrative regulations. Additionally, building administrators will monitor such film/clip usage, and may revoke approval of films/clips if they feel the usage of alternative materials warrants such action.

LEGAL REF.: General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.
105 ILCS 5/28-19.1 [ch. 122, ¶ 28-19.1].

CROSS REF.: 6.220, 6.260 (curriculum objections), 7.10

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