

# Eugene School District 4J

Code: **IIA**

Adopted: 7/2/73; 6/16/75

Revised: 4/16/80, 10/17/90,  
12/11/02

Orig. Code(s): 7310, 7310.7-  
7310.8; 7310.1-  
7310.6

## **Selection of Instructional Materials**

Because students spend a significant amount of their classroom time using instructional materials and because of the large variety of available materials, both print and nonprint, it is crucial that all materials be thoroughly evaluated.

### **Participation in Selection of Instructional Materials**

The evaluation and selection of instructional materials should be a cooperative process that involves teachers, students, parents, media specialists, community representatives, and administrators.

### **Responsibility for Instructional Materials Selection Procedures**

The administration is responsible for developing procedures to implement this policy.

### **Board Adoption of Instructional Materials: Textbooks**

The Board of Directors shall adopt instructional materials in accordance with Oregon statute, the state textbook adoption cycle, and the following criteria:

1. Students who will live most of their lives in the 21st century must have access to materials that will allow them to acquire the skills necessary to critically evaluate information, whether print or electronic.
2. Materials must be racially sensitive and have a multi-cultural perspective.
3. Instructional materials must be appropriate to course and grade level and meet district and school instructional goals.

### **Criteria for Selection of Instructional Materials: Library**

All libraries have the responsibility for providing access to information and ideas. The primary goal of libraries in the Eugene School District is to provide materials to implement, enrich and support the instructional program, as well as to provide students with materials for individual study and learning. Attainment of this goal will help to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information.

School District 4J subscribes to the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights,<sup>1</sup> with the understanding that the district has the responsibility to provide age appropriate materials to the school community. The district affirms the following concepts, which are adapted from the Library Bill of Rights:

1. Age-appropriate books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of students, parents, and staff served by the school library. Materials should not be excluded merely because of origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation;
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval;
3. A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

Gifts to the library may be accepted if they meet the criteria established for the selection of instructional materials.

### **Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Material**

All requests for any reconsideration of adopted or approved instructional materials on the part of an individual or any organization should be first taken up directly with the school principal. If, after discussion, any question remains, the complaint must be put in writing on a form provided by the district (34-I, Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Teaching Material.)

This form provides for the following information:

- Complete identification of the complainant and any organization or group he or she may represent;
- Complete identification of the material to which objection is made;
- Specific listing of the objections, citing pages, etc., where appropriate;
- A statement of how the material is objectionable (What might be the result of using it, for example.);
- Suggestions as to what the school should do about the material;
- Suggestions as to possible replacements for the objectionable material.

The principal, the individual making the complaint, and the teacher will then meet together as soon as practicable. Any conclusion reached shall be put in writing, and any exceptions noted in writing by the

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<sup>1</sup>Adopted June 18, 1948 and most recently amended January 23, 1980 by the ALA council.

parties concerned. Copies of the complaint and conclusions shall be given to each person at the conference. When agreement is not reached, a copy shall be given to the appropriate director and a second conference will be held to include the director.

If there is still no agreement after the conference with the appropriate director, an updated report, along with the completed form, should be sent to the superintendent. The superintendent will involve appropriate members of his/her staff and appoint an “ad hoc” committee to assist in resolving the issue at hand.

When such a special committee is asked to make a recommendation, it should make a written report to the superintendent as soon as feasible.

No teacher will be disciplined or dismissed for any alleged violation related to this section except by direct board action and only after having ample opportunity to defend himself or herself against such charges.

### **Controversial Issues**

The Board of Directors recognizes that honest differences of opinion may occur in classes where students are encouraged to seek understanding of facts and form opinions to conform with them. It is probable, too, that these differences will be accentuated where free inquiry exists and if divergent views can be expressed and be subject to common scrutiny.

Furthermore, if the quality of learning in the schools is to be judged on its contribution to the development of a free person solving individual problems and cooperating in seeking solutions to the problems of a community in a free society, then students must be permitted to express such differences with all the resources which they may bring to bear. It also follows that ample resources representative of different views must be made available to students.

The teacher’s role in these instances becomes that of a guide, aiding students in the process of objective inquiry and maintaining an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice. The teacher is entitled to express individual opinion on controversial topics. However, when individual opinion or one point of view is presented, it should be identified as such. The teacher should also assume the responsibility to present the findings that the best and most current scholarship has to offer.

The district believes that the student’s freedom to express differing views and to defend a position is a requisite if the student is to acquire the skills of critical thinking and analysis which will be needed by effective, productive citizens. It recognizes that such practices may bring controversial issues to the fore and that, as a result, parents may become apprehensive. But the board reaffirms that it wishes to extend to all students the right of freedom of inquiry. It is not the intent to force upon any student a set of values.

The administration will review complaints from any persons who are not satisfied with the manner in which controversial issues are being treated. If the person feels the complaint has not been fairly considered by the administration, further review by the Board of Directors may be requested.

### Provision of Textbooks and Supplies

The district shall furnish from tax funds textbooks and supplementary texts through all twelve grades. Supplies shall be furnished to indigent pupils without charge, upon verification by the appropriate agency.

END OF POLICY

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Legal Reference(s):

<a href="#">ORS 336.035</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-011-0050 to -0119</a>
<a href="#">ORS 336.067</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-021-0045</a>
<a href="#">ORS 336.615</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-021-0046</a>
<a href="#">ORS 336.625</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-021-0071</a>
<a href="#">ORS 336.635</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-0612</a>
<a href="#">ORS 337.120</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1020</a>
<a href="#">ORS 337.141</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1350</a>
<a href="#">ORS 337.150</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1440</a>
<a href="#">ORS 337.260</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1520</a>
<a href="#">ORS 339.155</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1640</a>
	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1910</a>
	<a href="#">OAR 581-022-1920</a>

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Sections 1111-1120B.  
United States Constitution, Amendment I.  
Oregon Constitution, Article 1.