

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

POLICY 6161.12

**PHILOSOPHY AND POLICY ON LEARNING RESOURCE
CENTER MATERIALS**

The Cherry Hill Board of Education reaffirms the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association and asserts that the responsibility of the school library is:

1. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of the pupils served.
2. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards.
3. To provide a background of information which will enable students to make thoughtful judgments in their daily lives.
4. To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.
5. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library.

(Source: ALA Standards for School Library Programs, 1960)

SELECTION

The Cherry Hill Board of Education, though it is finally responsible for all book purchases, recognizes the professional responsibilities of school librarians, teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accord with current trends in education and to make them available to the schools.

POLICY

It is therefore the policy of the Cherry Hill Board of Education to require the materials selected to be in accord with the following:

1. Books and other materials shall be chosen for interest and enlightenment of all students in the community. A book shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political or religious views of the writer.
2. There shall be the fullest practical provision of material presenting all points of

view concerning the problems and issues of our times;; international, national, local and social. No book or other material shall be removed from library shelves or classrooms because of partisan, doctrinal approval or disapproval.

3. Censorship shall be challenged in order to maintain the school's responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. The final decision for controversial reading matter shall rest with the Board of Education after careful examination and discussion of the book or reading matter with school officials or any other person or group the Board may wish to involve.
5. No parent, or groups of parents, has the right to determine the reading matter provided by the District for its students.
6. The Board does, however, recognize the right of the individual to request that his child not have to read a given book, provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal.
7. Any parent who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any book or reading matter in the school must make such a request in writing on a reconsideration form provided through the school building principals.

The form shall then be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent, who will then have the literature reviewed by a reconsideration committee consisting of a member of administration, school librarian, teacher and two Board of Education members. The final report of the committee will then be submitted to the Board of Education for consideration, the complainant being informed of the decision of the Board. Such report shall be submitted to the Board in a period not to exceed four weeks and, where possible, prior to the monthly action meeting.

Formerly Policy IFBD

Adopted: 8/20/73

Amended: 10/15/84

Renumbered: 4/26/05