

MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

Administrative Regulation

AR 6161.1

INSTRUCTION

Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials

Instructional Materials Evaluation Committee

The Superintendent/designee may establish instructional materials evaluation committees to evaluate and recommend instructional materials for Governing Board approval.

Committees shall review materials using criteria provided below and in law.

Criteria for Adoption

Instructional materials adopted by the Board shall:

1. For basic instructional materials in grades kindergarten through 8, be selected from among the list of materials approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with law (Education Code 60200).

Non-state-adopted materials may be purchased within percentages established by the State Board of Education or in cases where the Board establishes that state-adopted materials do not promote the maximum efficiency of student learning in the District (Education Code 60242).

Instructional materials for grades 9 through 12 are basic instructional materials as defined in Education Code 60010 and shall be reviewed and approved, through a resolution adopted by the Board, as being aligned with the content standards (Education Code 60451).

2. Be aligned with content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for the core curriculum (Education Code 60451). Instructional materials for grades kindergarten through 8 shall be selected from the list of materials adopted by the State Board of Education using criteria aligned to the content standards.

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3. Not reflect adversely upon persons because of their race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, disability, or occupation, or that contain any sectarian or denominational doctrine or propaganda contrary to law (Education Code 60044).
4. To the satisfaction of the Board, be accurate, objective, current, and suited to the needs and comprehension of students at their respective grade levels (Education Code 60045).
5. With the exception of literature and trade books, use proper grammar and spelling (Education Code 60045).
6. Not provide any exposure to a commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo unless the Board makes a specific finding that the use is appropriate based on one of the following (Education Code 60200, 60048).
 - a. The commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo is used in text for an educational purpose as defined in guidelines or frameworks adopted by the State Board of Education.
 - b. The appearance of a commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo in an illustration is incidental to the general nature of the illustration.
7. Meet the requirements of Education Code 60040-60043 for specific subject content.
8. Support the District's adopted courses of study and current curricular goals.
9. Contribute to a comprehensive, balanced curriculum.

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10. Demonstrate reliable quality of scholarship as evidenced by:
 - a. Accurate, up-to-date and well-documented information.
 - b. Objective presentation of diverse viewpoints.
 - c. Clear, concise writing and appropriate vocabulary.
 - d. Thorough treatment of subject.
11. Provide for a wide range of materials at all levels of difficulty which appeal to students of varied interests, abilities and developmental levels.
12. Include materials that stimulate discussion of contemporary issues and improve students' thinking and decision-making skills.
13. Contribute to the proper articulation of instruction through grade levels.
14. Have corresponding versions available in languages other than English as appropriate.
15. Include high-quality teachers' guides.
16. Meet high publishing standards in terms of the quality, durability and appearance of paper, binding, text and graphics.

Incompatible Activities

To ensure integrity and impartiality in the selection and evaluation of instructional materials, no Board member or staff member shall:

1. Accept any emolument, money or other valuable thing, or any inducement, to directly or indirectly introduce, recommend, vote for, or otherwise influence the adoption or purchase of any instructional material (Education Code 60072).

Sample copies of instructional materials are exempted from this prohibition (Education Code 60075).

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2. Accept any gift, favor, entertainment or item of value from any person or entity that submits or is likely to submit instructional materials or related proposals to the District.

Instructional Materials Requiring Adoption by Governing Board

Any instructional material intended for class instruction as a basic or core text requires recommendation to the Governing Board for approval. Included are instructional video and software intended as basic or core instruction and ancillary instructional materials designed by a publisher to accompany the core or basic text recommended for approval. Materials such as maps, charts, graphs, or core instruction reference works are excluded.