

## **Instruction**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES EQUIPMENT, BOOKS AND MATERIALS TEXTBOOKS AND WORKBOOKS**

**6161 AR (a)**

#### **Responsibility for Selection**

The word “material,” as used in this policy statement, includes: books, periodicals, pamphlets, pictures, films, videos, computer software, audio recordings, multimedia CD-ROMS; online databases and all other materials, print and non-print, which are used by the students and faculties of the Fairfield Schools and stored within the school facilities.

- **Textbook and other Classroom Materials**

The Board of Education, Fairfield, Connecticut, delegates authority for the recommendation of instructional materials through the Superintendent of Schools, to the Chief Academic Officer, the building principals and the classroom teachers for those materials selected for distribution on the system level. The final adoption of textbooks shall be made by the Board of Education in keeping with BOE Policy #6161.

- **Library Media Materials**

The Board of Education, Fairfield, Connecticut, delegates authority for the selection of library media materials through the Superintendent of Schools, to the building principals, and then to the library media specialists for those materials housed in the Library Media Centers at the building level and to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and the Library Media Program Leader for those materials selected for distribution on the system level.

- **Classroom Libraries + Privately Owned Collections**

Classroom libraries are funded by the district and qualify as instructional materials for the language arts curriculum. All resources are selected by the district Curriculum Leaders for language arts in collaboration with site-based language arts specialists and classroom teachers. Materials in Classroom Libraries as well as in privately purchased collections for classroom use must meet the criteria for all textbook purchases.

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**6161 AR (b)**

#### **Criteria for Selection**

The selection of materials is a continuous process because of the universal acquisition of new knowledge and information, revision of curriculum content and the publication of new materials. The selection process is as follows:

- A. Program Leaders and classroom teachers may be aided in the final selection of books and materials, including those found on summer reading lists, by consulting authoritative reviews, recommended lists, and standard bibliographic tools. It is recommended that materials be previewed or examined if evaluative, reliable reviews are not available. It is further recommended that non-print materials be previewed prior to purchase.
- B. Teachers, administrators, citizens, and students may recommend materials for selection. Parents are encouraged to review summer reading lists. Concerns related to these lists are to be addressed to the building administrator. The proper procedures for addressing those concerns, as outlined below, shall be followed.
- C. The following evaluative criteria should be used as a guide when selecting materials for purchase:
  1. a high standard of quality in factual content and are appropriate to the ability and needs of the students
  2. the educational significance of the materials
  3. the contribution made to the curriculum and/or the interests of the students
  4. the reputation and significance of the author, producer, and the publisher
  5. the validity, currency, and appropriateness of the material
  6. the contribution the material makes to the breadth of representative viewpoints on controversial issues
  7. a high degree of potential user appeal
  8. a high artistic quality and/or literary style
  9. the quality and variety of format
  10. the value is commensurate with cost and/or need
  11. the timeliness or permanence of the materials
  12. the integrity of the materials

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**6161 AR (c)**

**Criteria for Selection (continued)**

D. The following evaluative criteria are used as they apply:

1. Learning resources shall support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the state and district and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses.
2. Learning resources shall meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation.
  - a. Learning resources shall be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, and social development of the students for whom the materials are selected.
  - b. Physical format and appearance of learning resources shall be suitable for their intended use.
  - c. Learning resources shall be designed to help students gain an awareness of our pluralistic society.
  - d. Learning resources shall be designed to motivate students and staff to examine their own duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges as participating citizens in our society, and to make informed judgments in their daily lives.
  - e. Learning resources shall be selected for their strengths rather than rejected for their weaknesses.
  - f. The selection of learning resources on controversial issues will be directed toward maintaining a diverse collection representing various views.

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**6161 AR (d)**

**Criteria for Selection (continued)**

A. Criteria for Selection of Controversial Materials

The following criteria should be considered when selecting potentially controversial materials. All materials need to be age and developmentally appropriate.

1. Materials on controversial issues represent a particular point of view, and a sincere effort should be made to select equally representative materials covering contrasting points of view.
2. Materials selected will not unfairly or inaccurately portray or disparage a person's physical characteristics, disabilities, or any particular race, religion, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or family structure. A writer's expression of a certain viewpoint is not to be considered a disparagement when it represents the historical or contemporary views held by some person or group.
3. Materials on religion are chosen to explain rather than convince and are selected to represent the field as widely as necessary for school purposes.
4. The selection of materials on political theories, ideologies, or on public issues is directed toward maintaining a balanced collection representing various views.
5. In a literary work of established quality, the use of profanity or the treatment of sex is not an adequate reason for eliminating the materials from school use.
6. Materials on physiology, physical maturation or personal hygiene should be accurate and in good taste.

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**6161 AR (e)**

**Library Materials Review and Reconsideration**

The library materials review and reconsideration review is located in policy 6161.12.

11/27/2007

Rev. 7/25/2023

Rev. 10/7/2025

Appendix A

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**RECOMMENDATION FOR TEXTBOOK ADOPTION**

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Copyright: \_\_\_\_\_ List Price: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Use – Basic Text: \_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Curriculum or Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading Level of Text: \_\_\_\_\_

ISBN: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Copies to be Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Recommendation:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Principal**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Curriculum Leader / Liaison**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Deputy Superintendent**

**Action of Board of Education**  
**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Completed FORM AND BOOK should be in the Office of the Deputy Superintendent by the first day of the month in which the Board will initially receive the book for review.

## Appendix B

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### Copyright and Fair Use

One of the rights accorded to the owner of copyright is the right to reproduce or to authorize others to reproduce the work in copies or phonorecords. This right is subject to certain limitations found in sections 107 through 118 of the copyright act ([title 17, U.S. Code](#)). One of the more important limitations is the doctrine of “fair use.” Although fair use was not mentioned in the previous copyright law, the doctrine has developed through a substantial number of court decisions over the years. This doctrine has been codified in section 107 of the copyright law.

Section 107 contains a list of the various purposes for which the reproduction of a particular work may be considered “fair,” such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. Section 107 also sets out four factors to be considered in determining whether or not a particular use is fair:

1. the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
2. the nature of the copyrighted work;
3. amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
4. the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

The distinction between “fair use” and infringement may be unclear and not easily defined. There is no specific number of words, lines, or notes that may safely be taken without permission. Acknowledging the source of the copyrighted material does not substitute for obtaining permission.

The 1961 *Report of the Register of Copyrights on the General Revision of the U.S. Copyright Law* cites examples of activities that courts have regarded as fair use: “quotation of excerpts in a review or criticism for purposes of illustration or comment; quotation of short passages in a scholarly or technical work, for illustration or clarification of the author's observations; use in a parody of some of the content of the work parodied; summary of an address or article, with brief quotations, in a news report; reproduction by a library of a portion of a work to replace part of a damaged copy; reproduction by a teacher or student of a small part of a work to illustrate a lesson; reproduction of a work in legislative or judicial proceedings or reports; incidental and fortuitous reproduction, in a newsreel or broadcast, of a work located in the scene of an event being reported.”

Copyright protects the particular way an author has expressed himself; it does not extend to any ideas, systems, or factual information conveyed in the work.

The safest course is always to get permission from the copyright owner before using copyrighted material. The Copyright Office cannot give this permission.

When it is impracticable to obtain permission, use of copyrighted material should be avoided unless the doctrine of “fair use” would clearly apply to the situation. The Copyright Office can neither determine if a certain use may be considered “fair” nor advice on possible copyright violations. If there is any doubt, it is advisable to consult an attorney.

FL-102, Revised December 2005

U.S. Copyright Office  
101 Independence Ave. S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000  
(202) 707-3000

## Appendix C

### Request to Add/Remove Trade Book(s) Outside of the Curriculum Review Process

A teacher will initiate the request, by level (high school / middle school) by completing the process and forms outlined below.

- 1.) A teacher from each school, by level, will complete the form below for each book to be reviewed and considered. The teacher proposing the text may be one of the readers.
- 2.) An administrator (i.e., department liaison or administrator) will complete the form.
- 3.) Once completed, the form should be submitted to the department administrator. The department administrator will forward to the Chief Academic Officer for final review and approval with the appropriate administrative team.

Middle School	Reader
Fairfield Woods Middle School	
Roger Ludlowe Middle School	
Tomlinson Middle School	
Administrator / Department Liaison	

High School	Reader
Fairfield Ludlowe High School	
Fairfield Warde High School	
Walter Fitzgerald Campus	
Administrator / Department Liaison	

#### Trade Book Information

Teacher's Name Proposing the Trade Book	
Book Title	
Author	
Publication Year	
Publisher	
Proposed Course for Implementation	
Unit of Study in which the book is proposed to be used	
Book's purpose (whole group, book club, mentor text, etc.)	

- 1.) Why should this book be implemented in this course? What value does it add to the curriculum?
- 2.) Will this book replace a current book already approved and implemented for this course? If so, which book and why?
- 3.) If this book is *not* replacing a current book selection, why add an additional trade book to the selected unit?
- 4.) Is this book used in any other course, unit, or discipline?
- 5.) Has this book been reviewed by reputable sources? Please attach two book reviews from reputable sources to this submission.
- 6.) How does this book align to the approved curriculum and units of study?
- 7.) Are the themes/ topics presented in the book both age and grade level appropriate? Explain.
- 8.) Are there any controversial topics presented in this book? If yes, explain.
- 9.) Are there any topics/themes/passages in this book of which teachers instructing with this book should be aware?
- 10.) Was this book considered during the most recent curriculum review and approval process? If it was not considered, why? If it was considered and not selected, why?

## Appendix D

### Submission Rubric

Scale: 1 (weak) to 5 (Outstanding)

Target Area	Score	Notes
<i>Content:</i> Literary Merit – why is this text worthy of study and close reading?		
<i>Student Interest</i> – Why might students find this book meaningful and interesting?  To what audience does this book speak?		
<i>Audience</i> -Is the content of the proposed text appropriate for the intended student audience?		
<i>Alignment</i> - Is the text aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards?  Is the text aligned with the unit and its learning targets?  Describe how for each prompt.		
<i>Total Score</i>		

*Other considerations for the review team:*

Evaluating Teacher / Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by Chief Academic Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Packet Complete: Yes No

Additional Information:

Final Decision: *Approved* *Denied*

Additional Information:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: 31-Jan-2006  
Revised: 25-July-2023  
Revised: 7-Oct.-2025