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Statement of.....

## **Policy and Responsibility**

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**SUBJECT: LITERATURE AND TEXT SELECTION AND REVIEW**

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The Literature and Text Selection and Review policy shall be administered according to the following guidelines:

I. Standards for Required Reading

Literature selections which are assigned as required reading or read aloud to students in the classroom shall meet the following criteria and be approved by the district committee to be included on the District Approved Texts list.

- A. The subject matter, interest and reading level, and maturity level of the selection are appropriate for the students being taught.
- B. The selection is appropriate for the age, emotional development, ability level, and social development of the students being taught.
- C. The selection meets an appropriate instructional purpose.
- D. The selection will help students better understand themselves and others, the world around them.
- E. The selection has identifiable literary or curricular merit.
- F. The selection appropriately models a literary element (character, setting, plot, conflict, etc.), style, or genre that the student is expected to learn; or
- G. The selection appropriately challenges students' literacy in informational text (concept, descriptive pattern, sequence, cause and effect, problem and solution, compare and contracts, etc.)
- H. Literature or expository texts that students select themselves from school library media centers, public libraries, home libraries, or other sources shall not come under the guidelines of this policy.

II. Standards for Independent Reading

It is the responsibility of classroom teachers and their administrators to ensure that reading materials available in classrooms are appropriate. Reading materials, which are stored in classrooms and available for self-selection by students, shall meet the following criteria:

- A. The materials shall be appropriate regarding subject matter, reading level, and maturity level as well as appropriate for the ages and interests of the students.
- B. The materials appropriately model a literary element (character, setting, plot, conflict, etc.), style, or genre; or
- C. The materials appropriately challenge students' literacy in informational text

(concept, descriptive pattern, sequence, cause and effect, problem and solution, compare and contracts, etc.)

### III. Organization of Literature and Text Selection and Review Committees

- A. The District shall organize a Literature and Text Selection and Review Committee, chaired by the District Curriculum Director.
- B. The committee shall meet periodically to review new recommended reading.
- C. The schools will communicate annually to articulate the required literature selections to assure that required readings are not duplicated as students move forward through the grades.

### IV. Literature and Text Selection and Review Process

- A. Literature selection and recommendations for classroom material shall be conducted at the local school level and submitted on the Murray School District Literature Recommendation Form to the Director of Teaching and Learning for Literature Selection and Review committee approval.
- B. Upon approval the literature selection will be added to the District Approved Texts list for use at the specific grade level.

### V. Parents/Guardians Rights

- A. Parents/Guardians may exempt their students from a required reading assignment if they personally find the literature objectionable. The student shall be assigned an alternate literature selection without penalty.
- B. By law, schools must respond to objections to materials or curriculum content in one of the following ways:
  - 1. Waive the participation requirement; or
  - 2. Provide a reasonable alternative to the requirement; or
  - 3. Require participation as originally assigned

### VI. Appeals Procedure

- A. Persons objecting to the use of an adopted literature selection must complete the Appeals Process form and submit to the district Director of Teaching and Learning.
- B. Persons making objections are expected to read the entire novel.
- C. The committee shall determine by majority vote whether or not the challenged material selection shall be retained for classroom instruction.