

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

File: IIAC

**SELECTION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

I. **Statement of Policy**

The professional staff of the Vigo County School Corporation under the direction of the Board of School Trustees provides resources of varying levels of difficulty, with a wide range of appeal, and a variety of points of view to meet the educational needs of students and teachers. Further, the Vigo County School Corporation supports a process for the systematic review of resources through established procedures.

II. **Definitions**

For the purpose of this statement of policy, the term "resources" refers to any person(s) or any material(s) (whether acquired or locally produced) with educational content or function that is available or unavailable\* for formal or informal teaching/learning purposes. Resources may include but are not limited to: textbooks, other books, supplementary reading and information materials, periodicals, newspapers, charts, resource people, agencies and organizations, dioramas, filmstrips, games, globes, microcomputer programs, machine readable data files, kits, maps, microforms, motion pictures, realia, slides, sound and video recordings, plays, concerts, athletic events, and written and performed music.

\*The term "unavailable" refers to a resource that has been denied inclusion in a media center or classroom.

III. **Objectives of Selection**

The Board of School Trustees affirms that it is the responsibility of the professional staff to select and use resources to implement the educational program of the school district. To reach this goal, the professional staff:

provides resources appropriate to the educational program and the school community;

provides resources that enrich and support the curriculum;

provides resources to meet recreational and developmental needs of students;

provides resources that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, and aesthetic values;

provides resources representative of diverse points of view in a pluralistic society;

provides resources that are appropriate for the students for whom they are selected.

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IV. **Responsibility for Selection of Resources**

Legal responsibility for the operation of the corporation, including the supervision of the selection of educational resources, rests with the Board of School Trustees of the Vigo County School Corporation. The Board delegates the authority for the selection of resources to the professional staff.

V. **Criteria for Selection of Resources**

The major criterion for the selection of resources is the educational suitability of the resource for its intended use. Professional staff use educational criteria and professional judgment rather than personal opinions, values, and beliefs in the selection of resources. Specific criteria are used as they apply:

Resources are consistent with the general educational goals of the district and the goals and objectives of individual schools and specific courses.

Resources are appropriate for the age, interests, abilities, learning styles, social development, and maturity levels of the students.

Resources provide information which will motivate students and staff to examine their own attitudes and behavior, to comprehend their duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges as participating citizens in our society, and to make informed judgments in their daily lives.

Resources represent the diversity of religious, ethnic, political, and cultural values held in a pluralistic society.

Resources present the contributions to our national heritage and the world made by various groups in our society.

Resources illustrate historical and contemporary forces in society to enable users to recognize and understand social, economic, personal, and political problems.

Resources provide a variety of points of view about issues, including those considered by some to be controversial.

Resources are selected for the exceptional student as well as the average student.

Resources are judged as a whole.

Resources are selected for their strengths rather than rejected for their weaknesses.

Resources meet standards of technical quality and physical condition appropriate to the format and their intended use.

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Resources are judged according to the scope, arrangement and organization, relevance of information, special features, and overall value to the collection.

Criteria for the selection of resources for specific courses shall be developed as needed consistent with the educational goals of the district, the objectives of the course, and the characteristics of the students.

VI. **Procedures for Selection of Resources**

- A. Professional media personnel and teachers shall evaluate available resources, curriculum needs, and networking arrangements and consult reputable, professionally prepared aids for selection. When appropriate and feasible, the actual item shall be examined.
- B. Recommendations for purchase may be made by administrators, teachers, students, professional personnel, and community persons. Decisions to purchase shall be made by professional media personnel and educators in the corporation.
- C. Professional media personnel and teachers shall consult other persons qualified to identify appropriate resources to meet individual and specific needs.
- D. Gift resources shall be judged by the criteria outlined in this policy "V. Criteria for the Selection of Resources" and shall be accepted or rejected by those criteria.
- E. Selection is an ongoing process which includes the removal of resources no longer appropriate and the replacement of lost and worn resources of educational value.
- F. Textbook selection rests with appropriate administrators, chairpersons, and textbook evaluation committees.

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