

Textbook Adoption

Policy

As the governing body of the school district, the Board of Education shall be legally responsible for the selection and approval of all textbooks. As the policy-making body, the Board of Education delegates authority to the superintendent and/or a designee for the selection, review, and management of textbooks. The Board of Education shall provide textbooks that support achievement for all students. Textbooks shall be defined as single texts or integrated packages of instructional materials that comprise the core of what students read and study in a content area for a semester or whole school year.

The Board of Education shall approve new textbooks and changes in existing textbooks by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board, notice of such change having been previously given at a meeting at least one meeting prior to the vote to adopt.

Selection

The process of selection shall be based on the overarching criteria below and provide for periodic review of these educational materials to keep up with the expansion of knowledge and rapid changes in the world. In general, textbooks should:

1. Be rich in the content deemed essential by Connecticut's Frameworks and Torrington curricula;
2. Stimulate understanding and appreciation of the literary, aesthetic, and socio-ethical values of our society;
3. Develop students' abilities to think critically;
4. Accurately present the achievements and accomplishments of individuals and groups from all ethnic and racial backgrounds and both sexes;
5. ensure that students' educational experiences do not discriminate based on race, age, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disabilities; and
6. Provide for the special needs of individual students and groups of students.
7. Provide for a three-year curriculum review with recommendations for textbook adoption.

The Board directs the administration to develop appropriate regulations to implement this policy so that textbooks are of high quality and equitably accessible to all students. The Board believes that schools should be provided with textbooks to the extent that financial conditions allow.