

## Summer Reading List Guidelines

1. When possible, make summer reading open-ended. Students can read a book of their choice and complete an assignment that can be applied to any book (ex. brown-bag reports, structured presentations, etc).
2. If a list is provided for students to choose from, the following guidelines apply.
  - a. Several options should be provided (a list implies more than one). At least 4 to 5 choices would be optimal.
  - b. It is highly recommended that the books are selected by a committee.
  - c. A disclaimer must be provided stating that students can “opt-out” of reading the books for any reason. In this case, an alternate book may be read.
  - d. Effort should be made in selecting books. Use the district educational media selection criteria as follows.
    - i. First consideration is given to the need of the individual school based on knowledge of curriculum, the existing collection, and the needs of the students. Requests from users of the collection (administrators, faculty, parents, and students) are given high priority.
    - ii. Materials are considered on the basis of overall purpose, timeliness, importance of the subject matter, quality of writing or production; readability and popular appeal; authoritativeness; and reputation of the author, artists, publisher, or producer.
    - iii. In the selection of educational media special consideration is given to the following:
      1. Ideologies: factual information on any ideology or philosophy present in society
      2. Profanity: the fact that profanity appears in media does not automatically disqualify a selection. Care is taken to exclude media using profanity in a lewd or detrimental manner.
      3. Religion: factual unbiased media which represents all major religions
      4. Science: theories and factual information about scientific knowledge appeal to the age level for which it is intended
      5. Sex: pornographic, sensational, or titillating media are not included, but the fact of the sexual incidents appearing in the media does not automatically disqualify them
      6. Sex Education: factual information appropriate for the age group or related to the school curriculum
      7. Stereo-type and sex biases: educational media shall be freed from stereo-type and sex biases
    - iv. The books can be derived from a district list of reviewed and approved selections, if available.
    - v. Established lists such as SSYRA and Teen Reads should not be viewed as “pre-approved” or endorsed. These programs are designed to be voluntary in nature and the books should be read and/or reviewed just as any other material before being considered for inclusion on a summer reading list.
    - vi. Any books being considered shall be read by the teachers prior to the selection. Also review sources should be considered. Keep in mind that books are reviewed for different audiences and ages.

1. School Library Journal <http://www.slj.com/>
  2. Booklist <http://www.booklistonline.com/>
  3. Common Sense Media <http://www.common Sense Media.org>
  4. Destiny – Titlepeek in Destiny has review summaries (search for title in catalog, then click on the cover of the book)
- vii. Documentation should be maintained as evidence that the books selected were evaluated in accordance with the selection criteria and guidelines. Such documentation could include committee meeting notes, book reviews, and curriculum references.
3. As per the district’s selection policy, final selection of the classroom curriculum material (which includes summer reading lists) shall be the responsibility of the principal or principal’s designee.
  4. Challenge of materials on the list should follow the established *Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Policy* as published on the Media Services website.
  5. If censorship is suspected in the reading list selection process, this can be reported through the *Reporting Misconduct* procedures as published on the ECSD website.