

6037 School Library Collections

Lexington Public Schools Mission Statement

To develop capable and responsible lifelong learners. With the cooperation of family, school and community, the district will prepare students for the global challenges and the opportunities of the future.

Lexington Public Schools Library Mission Statement

To provide an optimal learning environment that promotes reading for enjoyment and supports the development of information literate students and staff who can competently access, evaluate, and ethically use information from a variety of resources.

School Library Program Philosophy

Lexington Public Schools aims to provide quality learning experiences designed to equip students with the skills to adapt and thrive in a changing global environment in accordance with the strategic planning goals and curricular needs of the district.

The school library is to be the information center for students and staff members, providing collections that include materials in a variety of formats to meet the curricular, personal, and professional needs for the educational process. The school library will extend and enhance the classroom experience: a place where students, teachers, and librarians can explore, learn, create, and collaborate. School librarians (also known as media specialists), will foster a love of reading and learning in addition to modeling and utilizing current technologies to assist students in becoming proficient and responsible users of information. The school library will allow free access to all materials for staff and students by providing information, access to technology for information retrieval, and facilities for meetings.

District Needs

Lexington Public Schools serves approximately 3,000 students in grades Pre-K-12. These students come from the town of Lexington and the surrounding rural areas. The community is home to Tyson, a major meatpacking employer, which has had a great impact on the increased numbers and diversity of the local school district's student population. This diversity has created language barriers and communication is often a challenge for students and staff, yet provides a rich cultural experience for all students. Therefore, the native culture and languages of students in the district will be respected and considered when making collection selections.

The primary clientele of the school library will be the students located in each of the elementary buildings, the middle school, and the high school, as well as the staff members for each of these facilities.

All curriculum areas will be represented at each of the building levels -- fiction, non-fiction, biographies, and reference materials. Books, periodicals, newspapers, and databases will be available in print and/or digital format.

Selection Objectives

The primary objective of the school's library is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. It is the goal of the school library to provide a wide range of resources and activities that will contribute to lifelong learning.

Selection and Approval of Materials

Both print and non-print materials will be selected for the school libraries that are consistent with the mission and philosophy of Lexington Public Schools. Considerations will be curricular needs, student interests and informational needs, level of difficulty, and appropriateness of the material for its intended educational and recreational use. All accreditation requirements will also be met. School staff, students, and parents may recommend that certain materials be added to the collection. Requests may be made informally by visiting with school librarians or formally in writing. School librarians will review and recommend materials to be added to the collection subject to the approval of the building principal.

Weeding and Deselection

To maintain a collection that is relevant and has educational value, school librarians regularly review materials and may recommend removing materials for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- Out-of-date
- Contains inaccurate information
- Lacking in educational value
- No longer of interest
- Unneeded duplicate
- Superseded edition
- Worn out, defaced, or dirty, etc.
- Obsolete
- Missing pages
- Not circulated within the past five years (exceptions might include past award winners, autographed copies, classics, etc.)
- No longer contribute to the total collection

School librarians will conduct an end-of-year inventory of materials. School librarians will recommend removal of materials subject to the approval of the building principal. Removed materials may be offered to teachers and students for educational purposes, or discarded subject to approval of the building principal and district policy on the disposal of school property.

Controversial Materials

Patrons finding certain materials objectionable to the school community may choose to have an informal conversation with the school librarian or request that they be formally reconsidered using following procedure:

1. The patron shall submit the completed "Request for Reconsideration of Library Material" form regarding the material in question to the building principal.
2. Until a final decision is made, the material in question will be moved to a back shelf and will be available for circulation with written parent/guardian consent only.
3. The building principal and the school librarian will work together to appoint a review committee whose purposes shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Read, view, or listen to the material in its entirety.
 - b. Check general acceptance of the material by reading reviews and consulting recommended lists.
 - c. Determine the extent to which the material supports the curriculum.
 - d. Make a recommendation to the building principal as to whether to retain or remove the material in question.
4. The review committee shall inform the building principal of its recommendation.
5. The building principal will meet with the patron to review the patron's objections and the committee's recommendation.
6. The final decision concerning the material will be made by the building principal. The building principal will mail a letter notifying the patron of the final decision to remove the material from the library collection or retain the material in circulation.

Adopted on: June 14, 2021

Renumbered on: June 12, 2023