

Boys Town Schools Media Selection Policy

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Boys Town Schools Mission Statement

Our mission is to change the way America cares for children and families. From our innovative child and family care to our compassionate healthcare and ground-breaking research, we are saving children and healing families for a brighter tomorrow (Boys Town, n.d.).



Library Media Center Mission Statement

The Boys Town Nebraska High School Library Media Center is committed to fostering a lifelong love of learning, literacy, and critical thinking. Our mission is to provide a welcoming and inclusive space where students can access diverse resources, develop digital and information literacy skills, and explore ideas that empower them to succeed in academics and life beyond school. Through collaboration with educators, we strive to support curriculum goals, encourage curiosity, and inspire a culture of inquiry, creativity, and personal growth.

Standards

Learners will use skills, resources, and tools to:

- Learn new knowledge through identifying problems, inquiring, and thinking critically
- Show a deep understanding of and dedication to inclusivity and respect for diversity within the learning community.
- Collaborate effectively with others to learn perspectives and achieve shared goals.
- Explore, create, and innovate with a growth mindset shaped by experience and reflection (American Association of School Librarians, 2017).

SELECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR BOYS TOWN MEDIA LIBRARY CENTER

The Boys Town High School Library Media Center is dedicated to creating a diverse, relevant, and high-quality collection that supports the academic and personal growth of all students. Our selection process prioritizes resources that foster critical thinking, cultural awareness, and a love of reading while aligning with the school's curriculum and values. Materials are chosen to reflect a variety of perspectives, promote inclusivity, and encourage lifelong learning.

Criteria for Selection

The Boys Town High School Library Media Center selects materials based on the following criteria to ensure a diverse, high-quality, and relevant collection that meets the needs of our students and educators:

- **Educational Value** — Supports the school curriculum, enhances learning, and promotes critical thinking.
- **Relevance & Age Appropriateness** — Aligns with students' academic, developmental, and recreational reading levels.
- **Accuracy & Credibility** — Provides reliable, up-to-date, and well-researched information from reputable sources.
- **Engagement & Interest** — Encourages a love of reading, creativity, and independent exploration.
- **Reviews & Recommendations** — Consideration of professional reviews, teacher input, and student interest.
- **Alignment with School Values** — Supports the mission of Boys Town High School in fostering character development, academic success, and personal growth.

*Inspired by the readings from (Mardis, 2021).

Tools for Selection

These selection tools will be used during the item selection process to better ensure titles chosen meet the policy criteria.

1. Common Sense Media
2. Junior Library Guild
3. User Reviews (Goodreads/Amazon)
4. Library Staff Readthroughs

Gifts

The Boys Town High School Library Media Center welcomes donations of books and other materials that align with our mission to support student learning, literacy, and intellectual growth. All gifted materials are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance to the Collection** — Supports the school curriculum, student interests, or recreational reading needs.
- **Condition** — Must be in good physical condition, free from excessive wear, damage, mold, or markings.
- **Accuracy & Currency** — Nonfiction materials should be up-to-date, factually accurate, and relevant to current educational standards.

- **Diversity & Inclusivity** — Reflects a variety of perspectives, cultures, and experiences that align with the library's commitment to inclusivity.
- **Appropriateness** — Content must be suitable for high school students and align with school values and policies.

Evaluation of Collection of Weeding Guidelines

To maintain a relevant, high-quality collection that supports the academic and personal growth of students, the Boys Town High School Library Media Center conducts regular evaluations and systematic weeding of materials. The goal is to ensure that all resources remain current, accurate, and useful to the school community.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Alignment with Curriculum & Student Needs** — Materials must support educational goals, research, literacy, and student interests.
2. **Accuracy & Currency** — Nonfiction materials should be factually correct and up-to-date, particularly in subjects like science, technology, and history.
3. **Usage & Circulation** — Items that show low circulation or lack of student/teacher engagement may be considered for removal.
4. **Condition & Usability** — Books that are worn, damaged, missing pages, or otherwise unusable will be replaced or removed.

5. **Redundancy** — Duplicate copies or outdated editions may be removed if they no longer serve a purpose.

Weeding Guidelines

- Outdated or inaccurate information, particularly in rapidly evolving fields.
- Books in poor physical condition that cannot be repaired.
- Materials that have not circulated in a reasonable timeframe (typically 3—5 years for nonfiction, longer for classics and high-interest fiction).
- Older editions that have been replaced by newer, more relevant ones.
- Content that no longer aligns with the library's selection objectives or school values. 

Professional Collections Policy

The Boys Town High School Library Media Center maintains a  professional collection to support educators, staff, and administrators in their roles as instructional leaders and lifelong learners. This collection provides access to high-quality resources that enhance teaching effectiveness, professional development, curriculum design, and more. The selection process

will follow the same criteria for our material selection process outlined above. The professional collection is available to all faculty and staff at Boys Town High School/Middle School. Materials may be borrowed for extended loan periods to support ongoing professional learning and instructional planning.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR CHALLENGED MATERIALS

Policy Statement

The Boys Town High School Library Media Center is committed to providing a diverse collection of materials that support the curriculum, promote literacy, and reflect a wide range of perspectives. Recognizing that not all materials will align with all individual's values or beliefs, the library upholds the right to intellectual freedom while also considering the concerns of students, staff, and the community. Challenges to materials will be handled in a fair, professional, and transparent manner, ensuring that the integrity of the collection is maintained while respecting the rights of individuals to voice their concerns.

Procedure for Challenged Materials

1. Informal Resolution

- a. If a student, family teacher, or staff member has concerns about a specific material, they are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the library media specialist.
- b. The library media specialist will listen, provide context regarding the selection criteria, and explain the material's educational value and role within the collection.
- c. If the concern is not resolved, the complainant may submit a formal reconsideration request.

2. Formal Reconsideration Request

- a. The complainant must complete a **"Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials"** form, detailing their concerns and the specific reasons for the challenge. This form can be emailed by the library media specialist or found on the school website.
- b. The completed form is submitted to the library media specialist, who will acknowledge receipt and forward it to the principal.

3. Review Committee Formation

a. The principal will assemble a **Reconsideration Committee**,
which will typically include:

- i. The library media specialist
- ii. The district superintendent
- iii. Director of Youth Care
- iv. A school administrator
- v. A teacher from a relevant subject area
- vi. A family teacher or community representative

4. Review and Decision

a. The committee will evaluate the material using:

- i. The school' s **Selection Criteria for Library Materials**
- ii. Professional reviews and recommendations
- iii. Curriculum alignment and student needs
- iv. Intellectual freedom guidelines, such as those from
the **American Library Association**

b. Within **30 days**, the committee will issue a written
decision, which may result in:

- i. Retaining the material in the collection
- ii. Restricting access (e.g., requiring parental
permission)

iii. Removing the material from the collection



By following this policy, the Boys Town High School Library Media Center ensures a thoughtful, respectful approach to handling concerns while upholding students' rights to access a diverse range of ideas and information.

PLAN FOR ADOPTION OF THIS POLICY



This policy may be adopted after consideration and discussion after THREE Board of Education meetings and a majority of votes is received.

Timeline

May 1st (Meeting 1): Policy Consideration

July 1st (Meeting 2): Policy Consideration

September 1st (Meeting 3): Policy Vote (Majority Vote Needed)

Communication of Policies/Revision to Staff and Community

The Library Media Specialist will provide regular updates via the school's newsletter, highlighting any important changes,

reminders, or initiatives related to the library policy. The most current version of the policy will always be available for staff reference on the school's library website and the Cowboy Core staff portal. When revisions are made to the library policy, all staff will be promptly notified through email, with a summary of the revisions. The Library Media Specialist will highlight the sections of the policy that have been revised in a summary document, which will be distributed to staff. Staff will be encouraged to review the revised sections.

References

American Association of School Librarians. (2018). *AASL standards framework for learners* [Pamphlet]. American Library Association.

Retrieved from <https://standards.aasl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/AASL-Standards-Framework-for-Learners-pamphlet.pdf>

Boys Town. (n.d.). *Boys Town: Saving children, healing families, strengthening communities*. Retrieved February 26, 2025, from <https://www.boystown.org/>

Mardis, M. (2021). *The collection program in schools: Concepts and practices* (7th ed.). Bloomsbury USA.

*Reviewed and edited in collaboration with Boys Town High/Middle School Librarian Shanna R. Crosby-Wilson

**Boys Town schools currently does not have a standing policy in place for the district. This policy was created for academic purposes.