

Classroom and School Library Collections - What we believe

It is understood that the primary function of all staff members is to improve student learning around a clearly articulated curriculum; this includes the Library Media Specialist who support classroom teachers in multiple ways including supporting pedagogical and curriculum needs.

This we believe about classroom and school libraries:

- Classroom and school library collections are currently mainly print materials, but digital materials are assumed to be a growing component of both types of libraries.
- We seek equitable collections of both classroom and school libraries.
- All materials in classroom and school libraries should be available to go home when appropriate to support student learning.
- Books in either type of library should be easily available to all students and teachers in the school.
- There exist some opportunities for overlap of the two collections, but that is a relatively minor component of the collections. This overlap can be reduced through a collaborative inventory management.

Classroom Library Collections:

- Another name of classroom libraries are classroom instructional materials.
- Are focused on support specific curriculum needs, such as literacy skill development and science content knowledge (maybe something using the term “dependent reading” - The material available is dependent on the needs of students to master the curriculum.
- Include what have been traditionally called textbooks and are funded from curriculum budgets.
- In the K-2 classrooms, students have book bags which go home. The teachers rotates out based on the current skills and content being taught.
- Classroom teachers in coordination with curriculum leaders, have the main responsibility to maintain classroom libraries supported by an appropriate inventory management system.
- Personal Reading Collections need to be more specifically focused on curriculum needs for the classroom.*
- Because classroom collections serve as part of the curriculum, they should be part of the instructional materials selection and reconsideration procedures and/or policy.

***Personal Reading Collections:**

- Personal Reading Collections are informally arranged group of fiction and non-fiction books collected and housed in a classroom and typically used by the students assigned to that classroom.

- Many teachers have created personal collections of reading material that have not been professionally reviewed by anyone other than the teacher for appropriateness for their students and may or may not match the school or district vision for a classroom library. They may currently contain books that are not specifically focused on curriculum needs, be outdated or in other ways not be appropriate for the students in an individual classroom.
- Many of these personal collections of reading material have been privately funded by teachers, donated books to them, or our based on available Scholastic points instead of criteria which is more focused on appropriate learning which likely creates an inequitable and inappropriate collections for students.

School Library Collections:

- Foster a love of reading remains one of the core missions of a school library collection.
- Encourages independent reading.
- School libraries enrich and support the curriculum by providing appropriate, subject-specific resources promoted through collaborative teaching efforts.
- The depth and breadth of the school library is guided by widely accepted nationally normed recommendations.
- School libraries are primarily student-directed; curated by expertly trained and licensed school librarians and are funded from a school library budget.
- Library Media Specialists have the main responsibility to maintain school libraries, supported by an appropriate inventory management system.
- School library collections encourage curiosity, innovation and problem solving and are an integral component to the cultural and social life of the school.
- Research is clear that a well-resourced school library improves student learning outcomes.