

DENTON SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF A SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTION

An effective school library includes a professionally curated collection of diverse and inclusive resources that meets the needs of all learners; represents various points of view on current and historical issues; and provides support across a wide range of interest areas with opportunities for learners to recognize themselves. [It] provides learners with a venue to explore questions that arise out of personalized learning opportunities and out of individual curiosity and interest. The school library focuses on the development of a culture of reading, supports reading for learning and personal enjoyment, and provides opportunities for learners to read for pleasure. To meet the needs of all learners, the school library provides a wide variety of resources. American Association of School Librarians, 2018

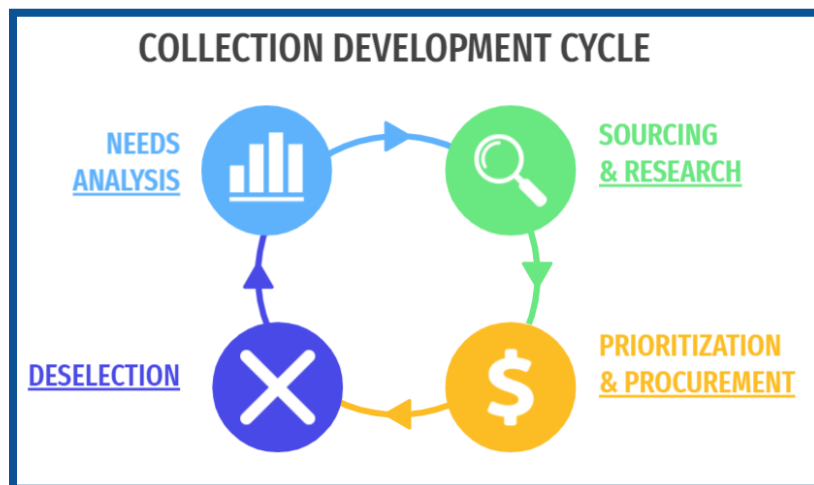
RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOOK SELECTION

Certified school librarians are responsible for selecting library materials that will be used by students. In order to become certified in Texas, librarians must have taught for a minimum of 2 years and obtained their Masters degree. Part of their required schooling includes a graduate class in Collection Development during which they learn best practices in selection and deselection of materials. Librarians are taught to approach collection development neutrally so their individual political, moral, and aesthetic views do not influence decision making.

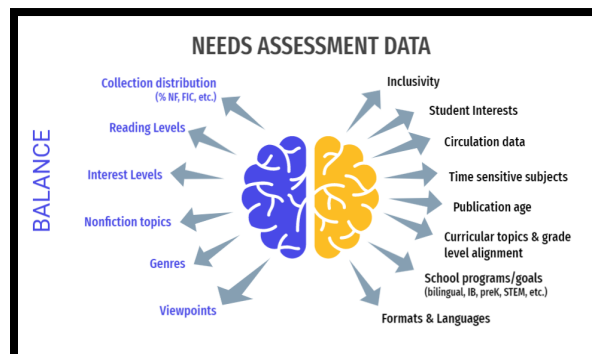
Teachers and curriculum coordinators may be involved in the selection of materials for the curriculum. School administration and Curriculum & Instruction may be involved in the selection of professional materials for teachers.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Collection development is the ongoing systematic assessment, selection, and deselection of library resources. Although it could be broken down further, there are four main components in the cycle.



Librarians analyze and evaluate their collections to identify areas that need to be targeted for improvement in the form of both acquisitions and deselection.



Librarians then research and curate lists of titles that meet goals derived from the needs assessment. Evaluation of the material is not based solely on an individual item but on the relationship between that item and other items in the collection. During this process each title is vetted individually to determine whether or not it meets the 5 Denton ISD library selection criteria outlined in Board Policy EF Local and prioritized based on approved vendor availability, budget, and need. According to [EF Local](#), library books:

- are integral to the instructional program
- are appropriate for the reading levels and understanding of students
- reflect the interests and needs of the students and faculty
- are included because of their literary or artistic value and merit
- and present information with the greatest degree of accuracy and clarity

LIBRARY CONTENT & THE 1ST AMENDMENT [\(EF LEGAL\)](#)

- A district possesses significant discretion to determine the content of its school libraries. A district must, however, exercise its discretion in a manner consistent with the First Amendment.
- Students' First Amendment rights are implicated by the removal of books from the shelves of a school library. A district shall not remove materials from a library for the purpose of denying students access to ideas with which the district disagrees. A district may remove materials because they are pervasively vulgar or based solely upon the educational suitability of the books in question.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Staff and stakeholders may not understand the purpose of and content in school library collections.
- Appropriateness is subjective, and parents have different ideas as to what their children should be able to access.
- A parent's ability to exercise control over reading, listening, or viewing matter extends only to his or her own child. [\(EF Local\)](#)
- All libraries contain books that someone might consider sensitive or controversial.
- As students advance in age, texts written for them become more complex with more mature themes.
- Students are not required to check out or read any specific book from the library.
- Librarians can provide parents with options they can use to influence their own child(ren)'s reading selections.
- A complainant may raise an objection to an instructional resource used in a school's educational program, despite the fact that the professional staff selecting the resources were qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure, and adhered to the objectives and criteria for instructional resources set out in this policy. [\(EF Local\)](#)

CORE VALUES OF LIBRARIANS

- Books are chosen for their curricular value as well as the personal needs of students.
- There is a book in the library for every student, but
- Not every book is meant for every student.
- Libraries are where students have free choice to choose books that meet their needs.