

## Library Media and Instructional Materials Training Transcript

Slide 1	<p>Welcome to the Library Media and Instructional Materials Training. This training is to assist librarians, media specialists, and other personnel involved with the selection and maintenance of school district library materials. This training also provides assistance to reviewers of instructional materials and was created by Florida stakeholders for Florida school districts.</p>
Slide 2	<p>There are four main purposes to this training:</p> <p>Part one discusses the criteria for the selection of library materials and discusses the requirements of many Florida Statutes.</p> <p>Parts two and three of the training are for Library Media Specialists regarding collection policies and selection and maintenance of library materials and reading lists.</p> <p>And, part four of the training is to assist reviewers of instructional materials.</p>
Slide 3	<p>We are going to begin with Part 1: Criteria for Selection and Maintenance of Library Materials and Reading Lists.</p>
Slide 4	<p>The primary objective of the library media center is to implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. The library media center shall provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and with the representation of different points of view.</p>
Slide 5	<p>In 2022, section 1006.29 was amended to require the Department of Education to develop an online training program for librarians, media specialists and other personnel involved in the selection and maintenance of library collections and materials on reading lists. This is that online training. Beginning January 1, 2023, this training must be taken annually by such persons before reviewing and selecting library materials. The requirement for persons to take this training before reviewing and selecting library media materials is found in s. 1006.28(2)(d), F.S.</p>
Slide 6	<p>Library materials and materials on a reading list must meet several statutory requirements. Here and on the next few slides we'll discuss what Florida statute requires.</p> <p>Materials must be:</p> <p>One: Free of Pornography and all materials prohibited under s. 847.012, F.S. These materials are not permitted in a school library or media center.</p> <p>Two: Materials must be suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.</p> <p>And Finally, materials must be appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used and made available.</p>
Slide 7	<p>While there is no statutory definition of pornography in the Florida Statutes, the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as "the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement."</p> <p>Pornographic materials may not be included in a library media center or on a reading list.</p>
Slide 8	<p>As stated on the previous slide, materials must be free of pornography and all materials prohibited under s. 847.012, F.S, are not permitted in a school</p>

	<p>library or media center. Florida statutes, 847.012, states: “An adult may not knowingly....(read slide).</p> <p>An adult may not knowingly distribute to a minor on school property: Any picture...or visual representation of a person or a portion of a human body which depicts nudity or sexual conduct, sexual excitement, sexual battery, bestiality, or sadomasochistic abuse and which is harmful to minors.</p> <p>Any book, pamphlet, magazine [or] printed matter...that contains...explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors.</p>
Slide 9	<p>Harmful to minors requires that any description or representation of nudity, sexual conduct or sexual excitement meet three requirements to be found to be harmful to minors. First, the description or representation must predominantly appeal to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest. Second, the description or representation must be patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable for minors.</p> <p>Reference to the adult community as a whole means extremes should not be relied upon. The community will generally mean the school community, or district. The third and last requirement is that taken as a whole the material is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.</p> <p>Materials must be analyzed in its entirety to determine whether there is any serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for minors.</p> <p>No library material shall be used, distributed, or made available to students if it contains content that meets the requirements found in the “harmful to minors” statute. Districts should err on the side of caution with regards to material that is potentially harmful to minors and in violation of s. 847.012, Florida Statutes.</p>
Slide 10	<p>Florida Statute lists the penalty for violating s. 847.012, F.S.</p> <p>Any person violating any provision of this section commits a felony of the third degree. To protect media specialists, a book that includes nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement may not meet the tenets of “harmful to minors” which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest;</li> <li>(b) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors; and</li> <li>(c) Taken as a whole, Is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.</li> </ul> <p>Please remember that violation of the harmful to minors statute is a crime.</p>
Slide 11	<p>The second and third criteria as listed on slide titled, “Criteria for Selection of Library Materials” referred to in s. 1006.40 states that materials must be suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material. Media</p>

	<p>specialists should also consider at a minimum, the age, maturity level, and grade-level of students with access to the material.</p> <p>Media specialists should consider factors such as the degree to which the material will be supplemented or explained by classroom instruction, the educational purpose of the material, with priority given to materials aligned to state standards, as well as the accurate portrayal of the state’s broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural diversity, without bias or indoctrination. Media specialists should also consider student interest, and the needs of their specific school population when choosing materials.</p> <p>Materials that are neither pornographic nor prohibited by section 847.012 may still be inappropriate for students. Media specialists should always err on the side of caution when selecting materials. It’s good practice to assess whether or not you, as the adult making book selection decisions, would be comfortable reading aloud the material in question in a public meeting. If you would not be comfortable reading the material in a public setting, then you should lean towards not making the material available in a school library for children</p> <p>Some of these requirements will be addressed later in this training.</p>
Slide 12	<p>In 2023, the legislature added a new provision that can serve as a new basis for an objection. The new basis for an objection is materials which depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in s. 847.001(19), F.S., unless such material is required for a health course, or identified by State Board of Education Rule.</p>
Slide 13	<p>Materials found to be pornographic or prohibited under 847.012, F.S., must be removed altogether. If the district finds that the materials contains sexual conduct a district must discontinue use but only in those grades or ages where the use is not suitable or appropriate. The analysis required when an objection is made on the basis that contains sexual conduct, is the same analysis always required for library selection found on slide 6. That is, is it suitable for student needs and grade and age appropriate? What is different about materials objected to on the basis that it contains depictions or descriptions of sexual conduct is that these materials must be removed by the school district within 5 days of receipt of an objection until the objection is resolved. The same requirement applies to materials objected to on the basis that it is pornographic.</p>
Slide 14	<p>The criteria for selection of library materials, reading list materials, and instructional materials is found in additional statutes. Many of the requirements are the same as in above slides.</p> <p>Florida Statutes additionally dictate that materials adhere to several requirements listed in section 1006.34(2)(b). This section discusses using the following considerations in the selection of library media materials: 1. The age of students who have access to the material; 2. The educational purpose to be served by the material; 3. The degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained as part of normal classroom instruction; 4. Consideration of the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of students of this state; and 5. Any material containing</p>

	<p>pornography or otherwise prohibited by s. 847.012 may not be used or made available within any public school.</p>
Slide 15	<p>Additionally, section 1006.28(2)(d)2 requires each district school board to adopt procedures for developing library media collections. The procedures must address the following criteria: 1. Book selection must meet the criteria in s. 1006.40(3)(cd); 2. Consultation of reputable, professionally recognized reviewing periodicals and school community stakeholders; 3. Library media center collections based on reader interest, support of state standards and curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty; 4. The regular removal of books based on physical condition, rate of circulation, alignment to state standards, relevancy to curriculum, and out of date content.</p> <p>The criteria for the selection of library materials and instructional materials share some, but not all of the same criteria.</p>
Slide 16	<p>Parental Rights are very important in Florida. The Parental Bill of Rights (s. 1014.04(1)(a), F.S.) states that parents have the right to direct the education and care of his or her minor child. Taking this into consideration, districts must have policies in place to ensure that parents have the opportunity to review library materials, including classroom libraries, and parents must be informed of these district policies.</p> <p>Be aware that each school district is required to provide parents access to any book in a school library if the district receives a written request.</p> <p>As a reminder, a parent may access the department's parental rights page to share concerns. Please share this link with your school community.</p>
Slide 17	<p>It is the responsibility of each media specialist to know their district's challenged materials policy.</p> <p>Section 1006.28(2)(a)2., F.S., states that: Each district school board must adopt a policy regarding an objection by a parent or a resident of the county to the use of a specific material, which clearly describes a process to handle all objections and provides for resolution. However, there is a limit to the number of objections that can be made by a resident who is not the parent or guardian of a student. No more than one objection per month can be made by a resident who is not a parent or guardian. It is important to note that these restrictions do not apply to the adoption of instructional materials as outlined in s. 1006.28(2)(a)3., F.S.</p> <p>We encourage districts to adopt robust policies to carefully consider objections. Districts may wish to consider including specific details about committee responsibilities and meeting timelines. Districts may also consider having an objection process in place prior to the purchase of any new materials.</p>
Slide 18	<p>We have now reached Part 2 of the training where we will explore collection development policies</p> <p>School districts are required by statute (s. 1006.28(2)(d)2., F.S.) to adopt procedures for developing library media center collections and post these procedures on school websites.</p>

Slide 19	Library collection development can be defined as...”the ongoing process of systematically building high-quality print and non-print information resources to meet the information needs of a particular district or school.”
Slide 20	<p>There are three main goals in collection development:  A good collection development policy provides guidelines for the selection of materials for the library that are balanced. Examples of a balanced collection include fiction, nonfiction and the inclusion of opposing viewpoints.  Collection development also provides guidelines for retention, preservation, and archiving of materials and  Collection development policies describe the ongoing process for removal of inappropriate materials including the regular removal or discontinuance of books based on criteria provided in s. 1006.28(2)(d), F.S.</p> <p>Collection development policies are important as they seek to address the needs of the district, school, and community.</p> <p>Collection development primarily focuses on the acquisition of print, non-print, and other library materials by a trained librarian or school library media specialist for school staff, students and community stakeholders. Collection development also involves strategies for continuing acquisition, evaluation of new materials and the existing collection in order to determine how well a particular library serves its users.</p> <p>A thoughtful collection development includes improving the library’s materials through the selection of materials and deselection of unwanted information.</p>
Slide 21	<p>In statute, section 1006.28(2)(d)2, each district school board is responsible for establishing and maintaining school library media services for all district public schools. The school board must establish policies on selection of books that includes providing training regarding the prohibition against distributing harmful materials to minors, including stakeholder input, including parents, and requires the consultation of reputable, professionally recognized reviewing periodicals.</p> <p>While not required in statute, districts may also consider the consultation of crowd-sourced reviews. We will discuss peer reviews and crowd sourced reviews in a later slide.</p>
Slide 22	<p>A Collection development process contains five categories, which are goals, audience, acquisition, maintenance and preservation.</p> <p>The first category is Goals.  The goals section should address the mission and vision of the school or district, and special program considerations, the current collection analysis and the responsibilities of the media specialist.  The second category is Audience –  It’s important to address the specific population of the school or district by looking at several factors including the school or district demographics, the school or district community, the needs of the population and the ways in which transparency is offered to the community regarding the current collection and selection of new materials.</p>

	<p>The third category is Acquisition  Some questions that can be asked pertaining to acquisition are:  What is the purchasing budget for the year? Will there be any additional funds from fundraisers?  What are the district policies and procedures for selection of materials?  Are the curriculum needs of the students and faculty being met? Are readers' interest taken into consideration?  Have selections been reviewed by stakeholders? Are professional reviewing journals consulted for new purchases?  The fourth category is Maintenance  Maintenance considerations include the inventory policies of the district and knowing the procedures for removal of materials.  The fifth and final category is Preservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During this step, it is important to consider the long-term development of the collection. District policies on preservation should be followed.</li> </ul>
<p>Slide 23</p>	<p>Section 1006.28(2)(d)2.d. F.S., states that districts must adopt procedures that provide for the regular removal or discontinuance of books based on, at a minimum physical condition, rate of recent circulation, alignment to state academic standards and relevancy to curriculum, and out-of-date content.  You may wish to use the following questions as guidance for making removal or discontinuance decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the content outdated?</li> <li>• Has the book circulated in the last few years?</li> <li>• Are the materials age-appropriate for the school community?</li> <li>• Does the material include information that is biased, racist or sexist?</li> <li>• Is the book irrelevant to the needs and interests of students and staff?</li> <li>• Has a subsequent edition of the book been added? or Is there a better book that should be obtained instead?</li> <li>• Are there multiple copies of the book available and do they circulate?</li> <li>• Is it material that is available in an online database?</li> <li>• Is the book physically damaged, beyond repair or poor quality?</li> </ul> <p>District cataloging software may be able to report on collection statistic data that will help media specialists to make decisions based on the age of collection, balance of materials, circulation data, and other important data points. This report, if available, can help with your removal decisions.</p>
<p>Slide 24</p>	<p>In order to select materials for a school library or media center, a school district employee must possess certain qualifications. In addition to a professional license, he or she must be certified as an Educational Media Specialist. A person qualifies as certified educational media specialist in one of two ways. One way is that an individual has an undergraduate or graduate major in library science or educational media or has a bachelor's degree with at least 30 semester hours in library science or educational media. The second way is that a certified educator adds the Educational Media Specialist certificate to their credential by passing the Educational Media Specialist exam.</p>

	<p>Section 1006.28 (4)(f), F.S. states, School principals are responsible for overseeing compliance with school district procedures for selecting school library media center materials at the school to which they are assigned.</p> <p>Elementary classroom libraries are a type of school library. Materials in all school libraries must be selected by a certified media specialist.</p>
Slide 25	<p>We will now discuss Part 3 of the training, which is: Selection and Maintenance of School Library Materials</p>
Slide 26	<p>Florida statute 1006.28(2)(d) requires that School districts must adopt procedures to ensure that library and media center collections support academic standards and curriculum, support the academic needs of students and faculty, and are based on the interests of readers.</p> <p>Each of these requirements is important to the creation and maintenance of a school library media center with an environment capable of supporting students in their academic pursuits and creating life-long readers.</p> <p>When evaluating your collection, you may wish to ask the following questions:</p> <p>Does the collection meet the current and future needs of the school population and align with the curricular and instructional needs? Does the collection align with the mission and vision of the district or school? Has the collection been developed in compliance with Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules and school district policies?</p> <p>Planning for the future is a best practice of collection and selection policies. As a media specialist you should consider a five-year purchase plan that takes into account planning for future collection needs.</p>
Slide 27	<p>When choosing materials for your library media center, choose materials that are age appropriate by taking into consideration the ages, grade-levels, levels of maturity, reading levels and special curricular needs and programs of your school or district. Materials should reflect all levels of abilities from struggling readers through those that are advanced. Special curricular needs may include materials for English language learners, gifted learners, and schools that may have specialized programs such as technology magnets, and advanced programs.</p> <p>Section 1006.28(2)(d)2, F.S., states that the consultation of reputable, professionally recognized reviewing periodicals and school community stakeholders is required.</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders and professional periodicals can provide information helpful to ensuring the selection criteria set out in statute, rule and policy are met.</p> <p>Professional review journals typically include a summary of the plot, an appraisal of literary quality, and a recommended age or grade range. Best practices are to consult multiple professional review journals.</p>

	<p>While the law requires consultation of peer reviews, districts should consider the consultation of crowd-sourced reviews.</p>
Slide 28	<p>When selecting new materials for the library media center, the following suggestions may be considered: make sure your collection meets the curriculum needs of your students and faculty, survey your stakeholders for suggestions, make sure your collection has a mix of both fiction and nonfiction, consider the diversity and age of your collection, make sure to address the high interest needs of readers, use reputable book vendors, look at award and state lists that are appropriate for your school age level, and follow all district protocols for the selection of new books.</p> <p>Annually, beginning after the 2022-2023 school year, Florida statute 1006.28(2)(e)3. states that each superintendent must submit to the department a report that identifies each material that the school district received an objection to and each material that was removed or discontinued as a result of an objection.</p> <p>The department then must publish the list of materials that were removed or discontinued as a result of an objection. Media specialists should check this list as part of their selection procedures.</p>
Slide 29	<p>Book selection should take academic standards and the academic needs of students and faculty into consideration.</p> <p>Some ideas for gathering this information include assessing readers' interest through various methods including surveys, suggestion boxes, and other community stakeholder input. Titles from state standards booklists such as the ELA B.E.S.T. Sample texts and the Civic Literacy Reading list should also be considered. Evaluate the school needs to include the school mission or vision, performance or improvement plans, any curriculum needs, or curriculum for specialized programs, and school population needs. Always consider any budgetary restrictions and the age of your population.</p>
Slide 30	<p>Stakeholders are an important piece of the selection process.</p> <p>Section 1006.28(2)(d) of the Florida statutes requires consultation with school community stakeholders in the purchasing of new library media materials. All stakeholders should be given an opportunity for input. Consultation can provide valuable input to assist the media specialist in making selections that not only comply with Florida statute, rule and district policies but to assist with the selection and maintenance of a well-rounded library collection. Be aware that the school board is ultimately responsible for materials maintained in a school library and the school board must have procedures for the selection of materials as well as procedures for a parent or county resident to present objections.</p>
Slide 31	<p>District policies for the maintenance of library media collections must be followed. Policies should include guidelines for:</p> <p>Organization – decide how materials are organized and make sure signage is clear and up-to-date.</p>



	<p>Availability – inventory everything in your collection at regular intervals and delete lost items in your library management system after a certain amount of time.</p> <p>Knowing your cataloging profile, which includes how you classify materials and their corresponding prefixes. It's also helpful if barcoding and labelling is placed in the same location on all books. You should also know how your school submits its MARC records into its library maintenance system. Repairing damaged books is a large part of maintaining a library collection. Lightly damaged books can often be repaired with basic book repair supplies such as specialized tape and mylar for book jackets. Books with mold or any liquid damage should be removed from the collection.</p>
Slide 32	<p>Part 4 – Instructional Materials Reviewers</p> <p>This training is also designed to assist reviewers in complying with the criteria for evaluating and recommending instructional materials for adoption as set forth in Section 1006.31(2). This training will provide a brief overview of the requirements for instructional reviewers.</p> <p>While not identical, there is some overlap between the selection criteria for instructional and library materials. We will start this portion of the training with the areas where there is overlap and discuss the selection criteria specific to instructional materials later in this portion of the training.</p> <p>It is important to note that this training does not replace the requirement for state and school district instructional material reviewers found in s. 1006.29(5). State and school district instructional materials reviewers must also complete the departments training program for instructional material reviewers.</p>
Slide 33	<p>All materials in public schools, whether found in a library, included on a reading list or in instructional materials must include consideration of the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings for the purpose of selecting instructional materials must be open to the public, including parents, and consultation with school community stakeholders, including parents, is required in the purchasing of new library materials.</li> <li>The age of students with access to the materials</li> <li>The educational purpose</li> <li>The degree to which the material will be supplemented by classroom instruction</li> <li>Consideration of the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural diversity of students</li> </ul> <p>In addition, all materials used in public school must be free of pornography and free of materials prohibited under s. 847.012.</p>
Slide 34	<p>Instructional materials reviewers should recommend only accurate, objective, balanced, noninflammatory and current materials. And, unlike library materials, all instructional materials must be aligned with the state's academic standards.</p>

	<p>Reviewers must also consider recommending instructional materials for academically talented students, such as students in advanced placement courses.</p> <p>Materials should be suited to the student's comprehension. The ability to comprehend material should consider the factors common to all materials and discussed in the prior slide. This includes the age of the students, educational purpose, the degree that teachers in the classroom will supplement the material and the diversity of students who will use the material. Maturity level, reading level, and material clarity are also significant. Finally, instructional materials need to be readable by presenting content at a level appropriate to student abilities. The pacing of the material must be at a rate that allows students to understand it, and materials must be easy to use and durable enough for multiple uses.</p> <p>The selection criteria for instructional materials includes not only what must be considered and included, but materials that must not be included.</p> <p>Instructional materials that reflect unfairly upon persons because of characteristics which include race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, disability, socioeconomic status and occupation should not be included.</p> <p>Instructional materials should not include unsolicited theories that may lead to student indoctrination.</p> <p>On the contrary, materials recommended by reviewers should accurately portray the ethnic, socioeconomic, cultural, religious, physical and racial diversity of our society.</p>
Slide 35	<p>Section 1006.31(2)(d), F.S., was amended in 2022 by House Bill 7 to prohibit any reviewer of instructional materials from recommending materials that contradict the principles enumerated in s. 1003.42(3), F.S. This section includes an acknowledgement that all persons are equal before the law and lists six principles that instructional and supporting materials must be consistent with:</p> <p>Section 1003.42(3), F.S. reads</p> <p>(a) No person is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex.</p> <p>No race is inherently superior to another race.</p> <p>(c) No person should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or sex.</p> <p>(d) Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are not racist but fundamental to the right to pursue happiness and be rewarded for industry.</p>

	<p>(e) A person, by virtue of his or her race or sex, does not bear responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.</p> <p>(f) A person should not be instructed that he or she must feel guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress for actions, in which he or she played no part, committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.</p>
Slide 36	<p>Whenever appropriate, s.1006.31(2) F.S. requires that instructional materials include only materials that accurately portray humankind's place in ecological systems, including the necessity for the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources and the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, and controlled substances, such as drugs.</p> <p>Instructional materials must also demonstrate humanity and compassion by including the portrayal of the appropriate care and treatment of people and animals. As mentioned earlier, instructional materials must be free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012 F.S.</p> <p>Section 1006.31(2) also directs evaluators of instructional materials to include materials that encourage fire prevention and thrift, which means using money and other resources wisely and not carelessly.</p>
Slide 37	<p>Section 1006.31(2) further directs instructional materials reviewers to ensure that when selecting materials for social science, history or civics courses that those instructional materials contain the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.</p>
Slide 38	<p>Districts may wish to use the department's Core Questions Rubric when evaluating instructional materials. In addition to the content rubric shown, other subjects include presentation, learning and Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rule. The full rubric may be found on the Florida Department of Education's Instructional Materials website and linked on this slide.</p>
Slide 39	<p>The section of the rubric titled, Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rule discusses the rejection of any unsolicited strategies that could be seen as indoctrination, or that contain divisive materials such as Critical Race Theory, culturally responsive teaching, social justice, and social emotional learning. Critical Race Theory, culturally responsive teaching, social justice, social and emotional learning, and any other unsolicited theories that may lead to student indoctrination are prohibited.</p>
Slide 40	<p>Both instructional material reviewers and library media specialists should be aware of district responsibilities.</p> <p>The responsibility of the content of instructional materials lies with those that choose the materials. Parents that are challenging or objecting to materials should not have to prove that those materials are objectionable. Instead, the individuals that chose the materials must be prepared to defend the educational value of the materials if needs arise. Parental feedback is important and parents should be involved in all aspects of choosing materials.</p>

	<p>The district school board oversees the final process of instructional materials after a vetting process that involves all stakeholders, including teachers, students, district staff, and community members.</p> <p>Districts must adopt procedures to permit a parent or resident to object to the adoption or use of any instructional material if it doesn't meet the criteria of 1006.31(2) or 1006.40(3)(c).</p>
Slide 41	<p>While not a criteria for selection of instructional materials, we caution all personnel to be aware of copyright and fair use guidelines. Always follow your district policies and procedures.</p>
Slide 42	<p>Thank you for attending the training program for library media and instructional materials reviewers.</p> <p>Your work in helping choose Florida's library media and instructional materials is a critical part of student success.</p> <p>Please click the next slide to print your certificate.</p>