



**Frederick County Public Schools**  
**Board of Education**  
**SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF**  
**LIBRARY MEDIA MATERIALS**  
**Policy 501**

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**A. Policy Purpose**

To articulate the Board of Education of Frederick County's (Board) expectations concerning the implementation of a unified school media library program and the selection and approval of library media materials.

**B. Definitions**

1. "Library Media Materials" is defined to mean, and includes but is not limited to, both print and digital formats, comprising books, periodicals, graphic novels, digital books, videos, and reference materials. These resources are primarily stored in the school library/media center, made available through the online catalog, and selected by students for individual use.
2. "Materials Already in Use" is defined to mean library media materials and all materials used for instructional purposes or planning, except for textbooks under consideration.

**C. Policy Statement**

1. The Board is committed to the success and achievement of each and every student which means providing students with equitable access to high quality, culturally relevant instruction, curriculum, academic support, and extracurricular opportunities in environments that are equitable, safe, diverse, and inclusive.
2. The Board is also committed to ensuring that students have access to the resources and educational rigor they need at the right moment and appropriate academic, social, and economic supports are in place so that personal and social identifiers are not barriers or obstacles to accessing educational opportunities.
3. It is the Board's expectation that Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) establish and maintain a unified school media library program in accordance with State law and regulation as well as any other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

**D. Implementation**

1. FCPS will provide a library media collection that:
  - a. Supports a broad range of student interests and is reflective of the student body and community.
  - b. Empowers students by providing access to a diverse collection of resources and exposing readers to other points of view and perspectives. Within a wide range of

accessible library resources, students are empowered to select book topics and reading levels that are right for themselves.

2. In the selection of library media materials, FCPS shall not exclude materials from a school library media program solely on the basis of the origin, background, or views of the individual who created the materials, nor shall FCPS exclude or remove materials because of partisan, ideological, or religious disapproval.
3. To fulfill the commitments and expectations as outlined in [Board Policy 117](#), *Anti-Racism*, library media materials:
  - a. Will promote equity, respect, and civility among FCPS' diverse community, accurately depict and represent the distinctive contributions of the global community, and provide opportunities for staff and students to model cultural proficiency in every school and program.
  - b. Will reflect cultural and racial diversity, and include a range of perspectives and experiences, particularly those of historically underrepresented groups of color.
  - c. Must be examined for racial bias as part of the curriculum review and implementation process.
  - d. Should enable staff to model and students to develop the following attitudes, skills, and behaviors:
    - i. Value one's heritage and the heritage of others;
    - ii. Respect, value, and celebrate diversity as an essential component of a healthy and thriving community;
    - iii. Value the richness of cultural pluralism and commonality;
    - iv. Develop and promote inclusive relationships and work effectively in cross-cultural environments; and
    - v. Confront and eliminate stereotypes related to individuals' actual or perceived personal characteristics.
4. The Board may not dismiss, demote, suspend, discipline, reassign, transfer, or otherwise retaliate against a librarian, a certified library media specialist, or school library media program support staff for performing their job duties consistent with State law and in accordance with the standards set forth in this policy.
5. The Superintendent is directed to provide a regulation(s) to establish a:
  - a. Process for the selection and approval of library media materials;
  - b. Process for the removal of library media materials and the reconsideration of library media materials currently in use; and
  - c. Process that addresses teacher use of library media center materials.
6. **Reporting**
  - a. The Superintendent will certify, in accordance with the periodic review schedule established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) that FCPS' elementary and secondary school library media programs meet or are working towards meeting the requirements set forth in [COMAR 13A.05.04.01](#), as well as any other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

- b. The Superintendent will provide an annual report to the Board on library media materials.

## **E. Related Information**

### **1. Board Policy**

- a. [Policy 117](#), *Anti-Racism*
- b. [Policy 444](#), *Educational Equity and Excellence*
- c. [Policy 500](#), *Approval of Curriculum and Instructional Materials*

### **2. Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)**

- a. [COMAR 13A.01.06.04](#), *Requirements-Educational Equity in Maryland*
- b. [COMAR 13A.03.06](#), *Universal Design for Learning*
- c. [COMAR 13A.05.04.01](#), *Public School Library Programs*
- d. [COMAR 13A.12.04.04](#), *Library Media Specialist*
- e. [COMAR 13A.12.05.06](#), *Library Media Administrator*

### **3. External Resources**

- a. [Maryland Department of Education \(MSDE\). \(May 2022\). Maryland School Library Media Standards for Learners, Librarians, and Libraries](#)

### **4. FCPS Regulations**

- a. [Regulation 500-01](#), *Curriculum, Courses, and Instructional Materials*
- b. [Regulation 500-02](#), *Supplemental Instructional Periodicals*
- c. [Regulation 500-04](#), *Textbook Review, Selection, and Approval*
- d. [Regulation 500-08](#), *Selection and Approval of Digital Tools for the Instructional Program*
- e. [Regulation 500-39](#), *Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Already in Use*

### **5. FCPS Resources**

- a. [FCPS Library Media Service Website](#)

### **6. Maryland Statutes**

- a. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 4-101](#)
- b. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 4-111](#)
- c. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 4-142](#)
- d. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 4-205](#)
- e. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-106](#)
- f. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 9-104.1](#)
- g. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 9-106](#)

## **F. Policy History** (Maintained by Legal Services)

<i>Responsible Office</i>	Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation
Adoption Dates	02/26/25

Review Dates	
Revision Dates	