

Policy 6161.11: Supplementary Instructional Materials

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/1990 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/01/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 08/01/2026

CSBA NOTE: The following optional policy addresses the selection of instructional materials that are used to supplement the basic textbooks and other instructional materials adopted by the Governing Board for use in grades kindergarten-8 pursuant to Education Code 60200 or for grades 9-12 pursuant to Education Code 60400, and may be revised to reflect district practice. See BP/AR 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials for requirements pertaining to the selection of those basic instructional materials.

The State Board of Education's, "Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions," provides guidance for districts when identifying, reviewing, piloting, and adopting instructional materials in all content areas, including links to current legislation, sample timelines, support for student groups, and implementation considerations. Additional information regarding the adoption of instructional materials can be found in CSBA's, "Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles, and responsibilities," "Instructional Materials Adoption: Local governing board responsibilities," and "State Roles, Responsibilities, and Process for Instructional Materials Adoption," and the California Attorney General's, "Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books."

The Governing Board encourages the use of supplementary instructional materials to enrich the curriculum and enhance student learning. Such materials shall be aligned with district goals, curriculum objectives, and academic standards and shall supplement and not supplant the use of Board-adopted basic instructional materials that serve as the primary learning resources.

Supplementary instructional materials include, but are not limited to, instructional materials that are designed to serve one or more of the following purposes: (Education Code 60010)

1. To provide more complete coverage of one or more subjects included in a given course
2. To meet the various learning ability levels of students in a given age group or grade level
3. To meet the diverse educational needs of students with a language disability in a given age group or grade level
4. To meet the diverse educational needs of students reflective of a condition of cultural pluralism
5. To use current, relevant technology that further engages interactive learning in the classroom and beyond

Supplementary instructional materials may be selected by the Superintendent or designee, school administrators, or teachers, as applicable, and obtained through donations to the district and/or available funding sources designated for these purposes.

CSBA NOTE: In *McCarthy v. Fletcher*, a California appellate court clarified that the Board may exclude materials from classroom teaching because they are educationally unsuitable and unrelated to the goals specified in Education Code 233.5, but not simply because the materials contain ideas to which Board or community members object.

Education Code 243 clarifies when it is unlawful discrimination for the Board to (1) refuse to approve the use of any supplemental instructional material or (2) prohibit the use of any supplemental instructional material. The Board may not refuse to approve the use of any supplemental instructional material on the basis that the material includes a study of the role and contributions of specified individuals or groups, unless the study of the role and contributions reflects adversely upon legally protected groups. Additionally, the Board may not prohibit the use of any supplemental instructional material on the basis that the study of the role and contributions contain inclusive or diverse perspectives.

In addition, Education Code 244 provides that the Board is prohibited from adopting or approving the use of any supplemental instructional material if the use of the supplemental instructional material would subject a student to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220.

For more information, the California Department of Education's (CDE) website provides guidance on the removal of instruction or instructional materials. Pursuant to Education Code 60040.5, CDE has published guidance regarding how to review instructional materials to ensure that they represent diverse perspectives and are culturally relevant,

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Supplementary instructional materials may be selected by the Superintendent or designee, school administrators, or teachers, as applicable, and obtained through donations to the district and/or available funding sources designated for these purposes.

As appropriate, supplementary instructional materials shall meet the criteria developed for the selection and evaluation of basic instructional materials as described in AR 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials. Supplementary instructional materials shall be directly related to the course of study in which they are being used and shall be appropriate for the age and maturity level of the students.

The use or reproduction of supplementary instructional materials shall be in accordance with federal copyright law.

Supplementary Materials Aligned with Common Core Standards

To prepare district students to achieve the Common Core Standards in English language arts and mathematics and the English language development standards, as applicable, the Board may select supplementary instructional materials from the lists of materials determined by the State Board of Education (SBE) to be aligned with those standards. (Education Code 60605.86-60605.88)

The Board may approve supplementary instructional materials that are not on the lists approved by the SBE but which are aligned with the Common Core Standards provided that the materials comply with the evaluation criteria established by the SBE and Education Code 60050, 60060-60062, and 60226. The Board shall select content review experts who possess the qualifications specified in law to review and recommend such supplementary materials. The majority of the content review experts shall be teachers who are credentialed and/or authorized in the subject area they are reviewing and the remainder shall include appropriate persons from postsecondary educational institutions, school and district curriculum administrators, and other persons who are knowledgeable in the subject area. (Education Code 60605.86-60605.88)

Appropriateness of Materials

Whenever a district employee proposes to use a supplementary resource which is not included in the approved learning resources of the district, he/she shall preview the material to determine whether, in his/her professional judgment, it is appropriate for the grade level taught and is consistent with district criteria for the selection of supplementary instructional materials.

The employee shall confer with the Superintendent or designee as necessary to determine the compliance of the material with district criteria. The primary considerations should be the educational value, appropriateness, and relevance of the materials as well as the ages and maturity of the students.

available on CDE's webpage, "Accurate and Inclusive Curriculum (AB 1078)." Additionally, pursuant to Education Code 242, CDE has developed guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum.

The use of any supplemental instructional material shall not be rejected or prohibited by the Board or district on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of any individual or group consistent with the requirements of Education Code 51204.5 and 60040, unless such study would violate Education Code 51501 or 60044. (Education Code 243)

The use of any supplemental instructional material shall not be adopted by the Board or district if the use would subject a student to unlawful discrimination as specified in Education Code 220. (Education Code 244)

As appropriate, supplementary instructional materials shall meet the criteria developed for the selection and evaluation of basic instructional materials as described in AR 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials.

Supplementary instructional materials shall be directly related to the course of study in which they are being used and shall be appropriate for the age and maturity level of the students.

The use or reproduction of supplementary instructional materials shall be in accordance with federal copyright law.

Appropriateness of Materials

CSBA NOTE: The following optional section may be revised to reflect district practice, including any district criteria for the appropriateness of supplementary instructional materials and/or circumstances under which materials should be submitted to the principal or other designee for review prior to their use, such as when materials relate to controversial issues or are presented in a controversial manner or context, for example when materials contain nudity, sexual content, graphic violence, or extensive profanity. It is recommended that districts with questions regarding adoption criteria consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel.

Whenever a district employee proposes to use a supplementary resource which is not included in the approved learning resources of the district, the employee shall preview the material to determine whether, in the employee's professional judgment, it is appropriate for the grade level taught and is consistent with district criteria for the selection of supplementary instructional materials.

The employee shall confer with the Superintendent or designee as necessary to determine the compliance of the material with district criteria. The primary considerations should be the educational value, factual accuracy, appropriateness, including whether the material contains pervasive vulgarity or profanity, and relevance of the materials, as well as the ages and maturity of the students.

The Superintendent or designee may provide training to administrators and teachers in the selection and evaluation of supplementary instructional materials, including the criteria to be utilized and applicable legal considerations.

Investigations, Complaints, and Opt-Outs

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 244, as amended by AB 715 (Ch. 428, Statutes of 2025), if the Board knows or has reason to know that materials were used in a classroom or an action occurred that violated Education Code 220, the Board is required to investigate and remediate the action.

If the Board knows or has reason to know that materials were used in a classroom or an action occurred that violated Education Code 220, the Board shall investigate and remediate the action, which may include, but is not limited to, the implementation of restorative justice practices. (Education Code 244)

CSBA NOTE: Complaints alleging discrimination based on a violation of Education Code 243 or 244 related to the use or prohibited use of any supplemental instructional material as described above, may be brought under the district's uniform complaint procedures or may be filed directly with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). Complaints that are filed directly with the SPI are required to identify the basis for doing so, and present evidence that supports the basis for the direct filing. In such cases, the SPI may directly intervene without waiting for an investigation by the district. For more information regarding uniform complaint procedures, see BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Pursuant to Education Code 60151, if corrective action is not taken by the district within 60 days, the SPI will

assess a financial penalty, the calculation of which is specified in Education Code 60151, amended by AB 121 (Ch. 8, Statutes of 2025) and may be subject to other corrective action as specified in Education Code 60151.

Complaints concerning supplemental instructional materials shall be handled in accordance with Board Policy 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials and Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, as applicable.

CSBA NOTE: Federal and State law require districts to provide parents/guardians notice and the opportunity to opt their students out of certain instruction, in some instances only based on religious beliefs and in other instances for any basis. It is recommended that districts consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel when determining the instructional content for which parents/guardians may opt their students out, creating opt-out procedures, and evaluating opt-out requests.

Any requests by a parent/guardian to opt a student out of specified instructional content shall be handled in accordance with Board Policy 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities and Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs.
