

Policy 6161.1: Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 06/14/2017 | **Last Revised Date:** 01/13/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/09/2026

The Governing Board desires that district instructional materials, as a whole, present a broad spectrum of knowledge and viewpoints, accurately reflect and value society's diversity, stimulate thought and the exploration of ideas and intellectual exchanges, and enhance instructors' ability to educate all students through the use of multiple teaching strategies and technologies. The Board shall adopt instructional materials based on a determination that such materials are an effective learning resource to help students achieve grade-level competency and that the materials meet criteria specified in law. Textbooks, technology-based materials, and other educational materials shall be aligned with academic content standards and the district's curriculum to ensure that they effectively support the district's adopted courses of study.

The Board shall select instructional materials for use in grades kindergarten-8 that have been approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) or that, during the district's review process, have been determined to be aligned with the state academic content standards adopted by SBE. For mathematics and English language arts, only instructional materials that are aligned to Common Core State Standards shall be selected. (Education Code 60200, 60210)

The Board shall adopt instructional materials for grades 9-12 upon determining that the materials meet the criteria specified in law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 60400)

Any instructional materials adopted by the Board shall be factually accurate and reflect the adopted curriculum and standards reflected in Education Code 60200, and be consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility, rather than advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship. (Education Code 51501)

The Board shall not adopt or approve any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library, if the use would subject a student to unlawful discrimination as specified in Education Code 220. (Education Code 244)

Additionally, the Board shall not adopt any textbook or other instructional material if it contains any matter reflecting adversely upon persons on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic listed in Education Code 220, or that violates Education Code 243, 244, 51500, or 60044. (Education Code 51501)

In selecting or adopting instructional materials, the Board shall consider the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee and/or an advisory committee established to review the materials.

The degree to which every student has sufficient access to standards-aligned instructional materials shall be included in the district's local control and accountability plan. (Education Code 52060)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians have, within a reasonable amount of time, access to instructional materials in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities. (Education Code 49091.10, 49091.14, 51101, 51500)

Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Public Hearing

The Board shall annually conduct one or more public hearings on the sufficiency of the district's instructional materials, including textbooks, technology-based materials, other educational materials, and tests. Technology-based materials include, but are not limited to, software programs, video disks, compact disks, optical disks, video and audio tapes, lesson plans, databases, and the electronic equipment required to make use of those materials by students and teachers as a learning resource. (Education Code 60010, 60119)

The hearing shall be held on or before the end of the eighth week from the first day students attend school for that year. (Education Code 60119)

The Board shall encourage participation by parents/guardians, teachers, interested community members, and bargaining unit leaders at the hearing. Ten days prior to the hearing, the Superintendent or designee shall post a notice in three public places within the district containing the time, place, and purpose of the hearing. The hearing shall not take place during or immediately following school hours. (Education Code 60119)

At the hearing(s), the Board shall determine, through a resolution, whether each student in each school, including each English learner, has sufficient textbooks and/or other instructional materials that are aligned to the content standards adopted by SBE and consistent with the content and cycles of the curriculum framework adopted by SBE in each of the following subjects: (Education Code 60119)

1. Mathematics
2. Science
3. History-social science
4. English language arts, including the English language development component of an adopted program
5. World language
6. Health

The Board shall also determine the availability of science laboratory equipment, as applicable to science laboratory courses offered in grades 9-12. (Education Code 60119)

In making these determinations, the Board shall consider whether each student has sufficient textbooks or other instructional materials to use in class and to take home. This does not require that each student have two sets of materials. However, materials shall not be considered sufficient if they are photocopied sheets from only a portion of a textbook or instructional materials copied to address a shortage. (Education Code 60119)

If materials are in a digital format, they shall be considered sufficient as long as each student, at a minimum, has and can access the same materials in the class and to take home as all other students in the same class or course in the district, and has the ability to use and access them at home. (Education Code 60119)

If the Board determines that there are insufficient textbooks or other instructional materials, the Board shall, by resolution, provide information to classroom teachers and to the public setting forth, for each school in which an insufficiency exists, the percentage of students who lack sufficient standards-aligned textbooks or instructional materials in each subject area and the reasons that each student does not have sufficient textbooks and/or instructional materials. The Board shall submit a copy of the resolution to the County Superintendent of Schools no later than three business days after the hearing. The Board shall take any action to ensure that each student has sufficient materials within two months of the beginning of the school year in which the determination is made. (Education Code 60119)

Additionally, if the County Superintendent, in accordance with Education Code 1240, makes the district aware of a school that does not have sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, the district shall take any action to ensure that each student has sufficient materials within two months of the beginning of the school year.

Prohibition Against Refusal to Approve or Prohibit the Use of Specified Instructional Materials

The use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library 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)

Investigations, Complaints, and Opt-Outs

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)

Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be handled in accordance with Board Policy 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials, Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, or Administrative Regulation 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures, as applicable.

Any request 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 and Administrative Regulation 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 9505-9530	Instructional materials
Ed. Code 1240	County superintendent of schools; duties
Ed. Code 18111	Exclusion of books by Governing Board that are sectarian, partisan, or denominational character
Ed. Code 220	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 242	Access to information about educational laws and policies regarding right to accurate and inclusive curriculum
Ed. Code 243	Prohibition of discrimination; instructional materials
Ed. Code 244	Prohibition of discrimination; instructional materials
Ed. Code 33050-33053	General waiver authority
Ed. Code 33126	School accountability report card
Ed. Code 33803.2-33803.5	Discrimination prevention coordinators
Ed. Code 35272	Education and athletic materials
Ed. Code 44805	Teacher enforcement of course of studies; use of textbooks, rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48907	Exercise of free expression; time, place, and manner rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48950	Speech and other communication
Ed. Code 49091.10	Parental right to inspect instructional materials and observe school activities
Ed. Code 49091.14	Parent/guardian review of curriculum
Ed. Code 49415	Maximum textbook weight standards
Ed. Code 51101	Parents Rights Act of 2002
Ed. Code 51204.5	Social sciences instruction; contributions of specified groups
Ed. Code 51500	Prohibited instruction or activity; discriminatory bias
Ed. Code 51501	Nondiscriminatory subject matter
Ed. Code 51511	Religious matters properly included in courses of study
Ed. Code 51933	Sexual health education and HIV prevention materials
Ed. Code 52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan
Ed. Code 60000-60005	Instructional materials; legislative intent
Ed. Code 60010	Instructional materials; definition

State

Ed. Code 60040-60052	Requirements for instructional materials
Ed. Code 60060-60063.5	Requirements for publishers and manufacturers
Ed. Code 60070-60076	Prohibited acts regarding instructional materials
Ed. Code 60110-60115	Instructional materials on alcohol and drug education
Ed. Code 60119	Sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials; hearing and resolution
Ed. Code 60150	Penalty for insufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 60151	Approval of instructional materials that subject students to unlawful discrimination; corrective actions and financial penalty
Ed. Code 60200-60213	Elementary school materials
Ed. Code 60226	Requirements for publishers and manufacturers
Ed. Code 60400-60411	Instructional materials; high schools
Ed. Code 60510-60511	Donation or sale of obsolete instructional materials
Ed. Code 60605	State-adopted content and performance standards in core curricular areas
Ed. Code 60605.8	Common Core standards
H&S Code 11032	Narcotics, restricted dangerous drugs, and marijuana; definitions

Description**Management Resources**

California Department of Education Publication	Instructional Materials, FAQ
California Department of Education Publication	Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content, 2013
California Department of Justice Publication	Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books, Legal Alert, Jan. 2024
California School Boards Association Publication	Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles, and responsibilities, Governance Brief, Feb. 2024
California School Boards Association Publication	Instructional Materials Adoption: Local governing board responsibilities, Fact Sheet, Feb. 2024
California School Boards Association Publication	State Roles, Responsibilities, and Process for Instructional Materials Adoption, Feb. 2024
Court Decision	Mahmoud v. Taylor (2025) 606 U.S. 522
State Board of Education Publication	Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoption, March 2024
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Association of American Publishers
Website	California Academic Content Standards Commission, Common Core State Standards
Website	Department of Justice
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
Website	California Department of Education
Website	CSBA

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0400	Comprehensive Plans
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0415	Equity
0415	Equity

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Cross References**Description**

0440	District Technology Plan
0440	District Technology Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1312.2	Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials
1312.2	Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials
1312.2-E PDF(1)	Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E PDF(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4-E PDF(1)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1325	Advertising And Promotion
1340	Access To District Records
1340	Access To District Records
1700	Relations Between Private Industry And The Schools
3220.1	Lottery Funds
3270	Sale And Disposal Of Books, Equipment And Supplies
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3290	Gifts, Grants And Bequests
3311	Bids
3311	Bids
4131	Staff Development
4131	Staff Development
4136	Nonschool Employment
4143	Negotiations/Consultation
4231	Staff Development
4236	Nonschool Employment
4243	Negotiations/Consultation
4331	Staff Development
4336	Nonschool Employment
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
6000	Concepts And Roles
6011	Academic Standards
6020	Parent Involvement

Cross References

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