

Minuteman Regional High School District  
Selection Policy for Reading Materials

Adopted - November 14, 2005

The Minuteman Regional School District, its teachers, and library staff, select and make available information, research, and recreational materials in diverse formats such as books, tapes, videos, periodicals, and software, etc. to every student. Consideration for selection should be based on the accuracy, integrity, and literary merit of the material. Sexual incidents, profanity, or themes about controversial societal values appearing in materials shall not automatically be a reason for exclusion.

Minuteman Regional High School is opposed to censorship and no material shall be proscribed or removed because of political, religious, moral, or aesthetic disapproval. No material shall be excluded because of reference to race or nationality, or the social, political, or religious views of the author.

The origin, background, or views of those contributing to the creation of a work shall not automatically cause the exclusion of a work from the selection process. Books and other materials shall be considered as whole works and may not be excluded based on individual passages taken out of context. Non-fiction shall be selected based on its content as a whole, and shall be characterized by accuracy, integrity, and authenticity.

If a parent requests that his/her child not read a specific book, the teacher and/or principal shall resolve the situation, (e.g. arranging for use of alternative material which essentially meets the same instructional purpose.) This does not apply, however, to basic program texts and materials.

Minuteman will not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but recognizes that at times a reevaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material restricted or withdrawn from school use:

- a. The person who objects to the book or other material will be asked to submit a written complaint to the Principal in which he/she will articulate his/her criticism.
- b. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the Principal will provide for a reevaluation of the material in question. The Principal may arrange for the appointment of a review committee to consider the complaint, as appropriate.
- c. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Principal's decision, a written appeal may be submitted to the Superintendent who will review the complaint and will render a decision in writing based on proper following of process. The Superintendent's decision is final.