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June 7, 2016

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of Revisions to Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption Policy

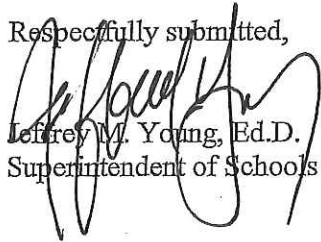
Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the supplementary materials selection and adoption policy as detailed in the attached document.

This is a first reading of the revisions to this policy.

Description: These revisions to the supplementary materials selection and adoption policy are being presented to align the policy with the report filed by the school district in connection with the most recent Civil Rights Audit conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Supporting Data: Redline of Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption Policy.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The Cambridge School Committee recognizes that knowledge is changing and expanding and that it may be necessary to use various types of supplementary materials in addition to the basic and fundamental textbooks.

Additionally, the diverse needs of students should be taken into account with an emphasis on addressing student needs with respect to race, color, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical appearance, pregnant or parenting status, disability, genetic information, socioeconomic status, and homelessness as well as student needs with respect to equity, language, social/emotional wellness and technology. Consistent with the recommendations of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education all educational products should be assessed concerning the ability to achieve fairness and sensitivity in content and language by excluding language or content that might disadvantage or offend a student because of gender, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or cultural, economic or geographical background and to include content and language that reflects the diversity of the student population.

For the purpose of this policy, supplementary materials shall be defined as any instructional materials other than textbooks including, but not limited to, books, periodicals, newspapers, pictures, diagrams, maps, charts, slides, filmstrips, films, records, audiotapes, and suitable technological, electronic and digital applications which relate directly to the adopted curriculum.

The School Committee believes that teachers and administrators should have a large role in selection and recommendation of supplementary materials. Teachers are encouraged to use a wide range of learning aids, provided the expense incurred in purchasing these aids remains within the limits of the budget.

LEGAL REF.: 603 C.M.R. 26:05

Adopted: