

**Equipment, Books, and Materials: Provision/Selection**

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) shall provide educational materials and equipment that support and enrich the curriculum and further the achievement of the Bethany Public School District's (District) instructional goals.

Adoption of new textbooks shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board, notice of such intended change having been previously given at a meeting at least one (1) week prior to the vote. Textbooks shall be defined as the primary or basic reading for students in a particular subject and student section in a semester or during the entire school year; supplemental and reference books shall not be considered to be textbooks.

**Selection**

The selection of instructional material will be continuously reviewed to keep up with the expansion of knowledge and the rapid changes in the world and to present balanced views on international, national, and local issues and problems of the past, present, and future. Textbooks should further:

1. provide materials to stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic and ethical value;
2. provide materials to help students develop abilities in critical reading and thinking;
3. provide materials to help develop and foster an appreciation of cultural diversity and development in the United States and throughout the world;
4. provide for all students an effective basic education that does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disabilities;
5. allow sufficient flexibility for meeting the special needs of individual students and groups of students.

Any textbook or learning material that will serve the function of a textbook must be processed through the District primary learning material adoption procedure and formally adopted by the Board. This applies to a textbook or material that will be used as a primary learning tool on an ongoing basis with the majority of students in a class, course, or learning group within a class.

Primary learning materials are textbooks, paperback books, audiovisual kits, or other instructional materials which are:

- used for the duration of a course or school year; the majority of assignments are derived from such material, and
- used by all students in a class, course, or learning group within a class.

The District will develop and maintain a procedure for selecting materials which meets the aforementioned criteria. Such procedure shall include the opportunity for professional staff to analyze, evaluate, and recommend primary learning materials for adoption.

**Instructional Materials**

Basic textbooks, instructional materials, and equipment shall be furnished by the Board for all students with the following exceptions:

1. Materials to be used for special projects not required for credit in a course.
2. Personal clothing items worn for physical education and other in-school athletic activities.

The District will develop rules for textbook selection which meets the above criteria, including:

1. analysis, evaluation, and recommendation by professional staff, and
2. the opportunity for interested stakeholders in the District to review recommended textbooks.

In accordance with state law, the Board will make the final selection decision relevant to-textbooks.

Legal References:        Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-222a  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-228  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-229  
*President's Council, District 25 v. Community School Board No. 25*, 457 F.2d 289  
(1972), Cert. Denied 409 U.S.C. 998 (Nov. 1972)  
*Minarcini v. Strongsville City School District*, 541 F.2d 577 (6th Cir. 1976)  
*Island Trees Union Free School District Board of Education v. Pico*, 457 US 853  
(1982)  
Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education,  
09/09/1981)

Policy adopted:        September 9, 1991  
Policy revised:        June 10, 2015  
Policy revised:        May 10, 2017  
Policy revised:        April 7, 2021

Source: CABE