

Instruction/Community Relations

Library Display and Program Policy

Library displays and student programs are critical in serving as resources for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas, and promoting free expression and free access to ideas by students.

The Bristol Board of Education recognizes that library displays and programs are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all students; represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints; provide students access to age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate content; and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of students.

The Bristol Board of Education's Library Display and Program Policy serves to articulate the principles and criteria that guide the creation and development of library displays and programs and to inform the public about those standards.

This policy shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with section §10-15c of the Connecticut General Statutes, ensuring that no person is discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other category protected by law.

Definitions

Library programs are defined as events, in-person or virtual, planned by the library staff for the benefit of those members of the school community who opt to attend. Programs do not include regular library instruction as part of the curriculum. Programs are generally held at the library but may in some cases be held outdoors or at other venues.

Library displays are defined as curated collections of library materials and visual aids displayed to draw attention to particular items in the library collection.

The elected Board of Education shall delegate to the superintendent of schools the authority and responsibility for library displays and programs. Responsibility for actual library displays and programs rests with certified library media specialists using the board's adopted criteria and procedures.

General Selection Criteria

In curating materials for display and in developing programs, certified library media specialists shall evaluate materials using the following general selection criteria. Not all criteria may apply in all circumstances.

- Alignment with the educational mission and goals of the school
- Support for curriculum, literacy, and lifelong learning
- Relevance to the interests, needs, and developmental levels of students
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events

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Library Display and Program Policy (continued)

- Potential to foster collaboration with school departments, community organizations, or guest presenters
- Promotion of intellectual freedom, diversity of ideas, and inclusive representation
- Opportunities for active engagement, creativity, and critical thinking
- Community needs and interest
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- Relation to holidays and observances
- Cost-effectiveness and feasibility within available resources
- Balance across program types (literary, cultural, informational, recreational, etc.) to ensure a wide range of student opportunities
- Availability of display space

The Bristol Board of Education acknowledges that a certified library media specialist is professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs that shall provide students with access to the widest array of age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate library and other educational materials. Any school library media specialist or school library staff member who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

Legal Reference: Public Act 25-168 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefore, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget.

Connecticut General Statutes
Section 10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited

Policy adopted:

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bristol, Connecticut