The Transylvania County Board of Education (the "Board") strives to provide rich and meaningful learning experiences to all students. Toward that end, the Board is committed to establishing and implementing systematic, effective processes for the selection of media and technology resources that enhance the quality of the school district's educational programs and services.

A.   MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-98(b), "Local Boards of Education shall adopt written policies concerning the procedures to be followed in their local school administrative units for the selection and procurement of supplementary textbooks, library books, periodicals and other instructional materials needed for instructional purposes in the public schools of their units." The Board delegates the responsibility of coordinating the selection of media and technology resources and recommendations for purchase to the Superintendent or designee.

A system-wide Media/Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) shall be appointed by the Superintendent or designee. This committee shall include representatives of the media and technology personnel, supervisors, teachers, parents, and community representatives. Under the leadership of the Superintendent or designee, this group (1) shall set priorities for media and technology resources to be acquired based on system-wide objectives and on strengths and weaknesses in the existing program, and (2) shall act on requests for reconsideration of instructional materials.

A school level MTAC shall be appointed by the principal/designee. This committee shall include school level media personnel, teachers representing all subject areas and/or grade levels, students (in high schools), parents, and community representatives. Under the leadership of the principal/designee, this group shall set priorities for media and technology resources to be acquired based on school objectives, on strengths and weaknesses in the existing program, and aligned to system-wide priorities.

B.   OBJECTIVES FOR SELECTING MEDIA RESOURCES

The primary objective of each school's media program shall be to implement, enrich, and support the instructional program of the school. The media program shall make available, through the media collection, a wide range of materials on varying levels of difficulty with a diversity of appeal compatible with the different needs, interests, and viewpoints of students and teachers.

To this end, the Board, in keeping with the ideas expressed in the *Library Bill of Rights,* asserts that the responsibility of the media program is as follows:

- To provide media that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration individual needs and varied interests, abilities, socio-economic backgrounds, and maturity levels of the students served.

- To provide media that stimulates growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.

- To provide a background of information enabling students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.

- To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that students may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical thinking and of critical analysis of all media.

- To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups in our nation and the contribution of these groups to our American heritage.

- To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in selecting media of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the media center.

C. CRITERIA FOR SELECTING MEDIA RESOURCES

Individual learning styles, the curriculum, and the existing collection shall be given consideration in determining the needs for media in individual schools.

Media considered for purchase shall be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- Purpose: overall purpose and its direct relationship to instructional objectives and curricula
- Reliability: accurate, authentic
- Content: well-organized, unbiased, age appropriate
- Technical production: audio and/or visual
- Construction: durable, manageable, attractive
- Special features: illustrations, photographs, maps, charts, graphs, guides, etc.
- Possible uses: individual, small group, large group, introduction, in-depth study

Donations and gifts will be evaluated using the same criteria.

D. OBJECTIVES FOR SELECTING TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

The Board strives to incorporate the use of technology resources into the educational program in order to enhance instructional opportunities, appeal to different learning styles, and meet the educational goals of the Board.

Schools are encouraged to develop strategies for using technology resources to improve student success. The strategies should be included in the school improvement plan if they require the transfer of funds or otherwise relate to any mandatory or optional components of the school improvement plan.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a local school system technology plan that is aligned with and meets state requirements and submit the plan to the Board for approval. The Superintendent or designee shall incorporate this plan into school system strategic planning efforts and shall include various stakeholders such as curriculum leaders, teachers, administrators, representatives from technology services and instructional technology, finance, and other departments as required. Once the Board has approved the plan, the Superintendent or designee shall take all steps necessary to receive approval of the plan from the State Board of Education and/or other appropriate agencies, if applicable. No state funds may be spent on any aspect of school technology except in accordance with the technology plan.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish relationships with businesses and seek grants and other funding sources in an effort to acquire technological resources for the educational program.

E.   CRITERIA FOR SELECTING TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

All technology resources, including computers, software, and communication lines, must be purchased and used in a manner consistent with applicable law and Board policy, including laws and policies related to copyright, public records, bidding and other purchase requirements, staff duties, and standards for student behavior.

Technology resources must meet or exceed the following standards before they may be considered for implementation:

1.   Technology resources must relate to or help to implement the North Carolina Standard Course of Study or the programs of the school system.

2.   Technology resources must relate to the current use of learning and instructional management technologies in the school system.

3.   Technology resources must be compatible with the condition of the network. The Superintendent or designee shall set minimum standards for technology resources that are purchased or donated. Upgrading, hardware conditions, and similar requirements must be maintained to the highest standards.

4.   There must be sufficient staff to operate and maintain the technology equipment, programs, and systems.

5.   There must be adequate funds budgeted to implement and support the technology resources.

F.   DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES TO SCHOOLS

The Superintendent or designee shall oversee the development of the school system's technology deployment plan. The plan will be designed to ensure organized, effective, and efficient means of deploying new hardware and software. The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures that outline the strategy of the technology deployment plan.

G.   TRAINING FOR USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Users should be trained as necessary in the effective use of technology resources. Such training should include information related to remote access, virus protection, the student information system, network and information security, and other topics deemed necessary by the Superintendent or designee. School improvement teams should identify any staff development appropriations for technological training in their school improvement plans. The Superintendent or designee should assist schools in coordinating staff development efforts in the use of technology resources.

Legal References: N. C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-98

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