

## **Procedure Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials**

For the purposes of this procedure, the definitions from Policy 2020 will apply.

District course design and core instructional materials should be regularly reviewed to ensure their ongoing alignment with state law, teaching and learning standards, and research-based best practices. All students will receive high quality core instruction and, as appropriate, strategic and intensive intervention supports matched to student needs.

### **Course Design**

#### **Existing Courses**

The superintendent or designee will establish a regular cycle of course design review and development that includes examination by review committees composed of district subject area coordinators and, as appropriate, external content area experts. This review cycle should be based on student need, changing demographics and funding. The cycle should cover each content area to ensure current course relevance. The course design process should review:

- Relevance, rigor, and alignment to state learning standards;
- Efficacy of core, alternative core, and intervention instructional materials that support student learning; and
- Processes and resources used to assess student progress and address teacher professional learning.

Recommendations of this review may lead to:

- Affirmation of continued use of current processes and instructional materials;
- Establishment of a timeline for completion of recommended tasks;
- Creation and assignment of tasks to subcommittees as required to select, write, or revise the course design;
- Recommendation of new instructional materials selection to the Instructional Materials Committee;
- Design of course implementation and staff development plans;
- Identification of projected budget needs in accordance with established timelines; and/or
- Maintained communications with impacted stakeholders.

#### **New Courses or Major Modifications to Existing Courses**

New course offerings or major course modifications that propose significant changes to course objectives or scope will be reviewed by the Superintendent or designee prior to being scheduled to ensure that the course is rigorous, utilizes appropriate instructional materials, and is a carefully considered part of the school's college and career pathways.

When the implementation of new or modified courses requires the adoption of new instructional resources, those resource recommendations will be forwarded to the Instructional Materials Committee for consideration by the process outlined below.

### **Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials**

For the purposes of this procedure, instructional materials used in the school district will be classified as core, alternative core, intervention, supplemental, and temporary supplemental and shall be selected according to the procedures that follow. The principal is responsible for ensuring the continuing familiarity of his/her certificated staff with the requirement of this policy and procedure. The district office will provide such technical assistance as may be necessary to accomplish this.

### **Roles and Responsibilities in the Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials**

<b>Instructional Material Type</b>	<b>Role</b>				
	<b>Certificated Teaching Staff</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Instructional Materials Committee (IMC)</b>	<b>School Board</b>
<b>Core material</b>	identify		establish adoption procedure	recommend	adopt
<b>Alternative core</b>	identify		designate selector		
<b>Intervention</b>	identify		designate selector		
<b>Supplemental</b>	identify	designate selector			
<b>Temporary Supplemental</b>	select – within district guidelines				

### **Instructional Material Delivery Formats**

Instructional materials may be delivered in many formats, and may include textbooks, technology-based materials, or other educational media.

### **Open Educational Resources**

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. A wide variety of free, high quality instructional content is available from supplemental to core instructional materials. District staff are encouraged to consider OER when selecting instructional materials. OER are subject to the same selection and adoption procedures as other instructional materials outlined in this document.

## **Technology-based Resources**

When instructional materials are technology based, district educational technology staff should be consulted regarding the technological impacts of the suggested program. Equity of access for students and teachers must be considered for all core materials delivered in digital formats.

## **Core Instructional Material Selection**

### **Instructional Materials Committee**

The Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) is formed to establish and monitor such procedures as may be necessary for the evaluation and recommendation of core materials used by the district in conformance to stated criteria. The committee will act upon requests for core material approval and will evaluate and act upon citizens' requests for reconsideration of core materials.

Committee meetings will be held on a schedule determined by the district. Special meetings may be called by the committee chairman if necessary. The committee secretary will provide department heads, principals, and program developers with copies of the committee meeting schedule.

The committee will consist of: *[District Note: Describe the membership of the committee here.]* Instructional Materials Committees may include parents, but state law provides that parents must make up less than one-half the committee.

Members will be appointed by the superintendent or designee through the district's committee process. Membership must be approved by the Board of Directors.

The chairman and the secretary will be permanent members of the committee. Other members will have three-year terms. Temporary appointments of one year or less may be made to fill vacancies.

### **Criteria for Selection of Core Instructional Materials**

Core instructional materials shall be selected based upon the degree to which they:

- A. Demonstrate likelihood of impact as shown by scientific or evidence-based research;
- B. Enable implementation of the district's developed curriculum and meet state standards and College Readiness requirements;
- C. Provide sufficient flexibility to meet the varied needs and abilities of the students served;
- D. Provide clear and appropriate differentiation components for English Language Learners, special education students, students with academic opportunity gaps, and highly capable students;
- E. Where appropriate, present balanced but differing views of issues, controversial or otherwise, in order that students may develop critical analysis and informed decision-making skills;
- F. Demonstrate consideration of appropriate format(s) (including technological, visual, and/or auditory components);

- G. Support an equitable access to learning and learning materials for all students; including the provision of appropriate, high-quality accessible instructional materials to all students with disabilities who require them; and
- H. Are free of stereotyping and gender, race, class, and other forms of bias, recognizing that under certain circumstances biased materials may serve as appropriate resources to present contrasting and differing points of view, and biased materials may be employed in order to teach students about bias, stereotyping, and propaganda in historical or contemporary contexts. The *Washington Models for the Evaluation of Bias Content in Instructional Materials*, published by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) should be consulted in the selection process to further to the goal of eliminating content bias:  
<https://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/InstructionalMaterialsReview.aspx>.

### **Identification of Core Instructional Materials**

Core materials shall be initially selected by such certificated staff as the superintendent or designee may assign. Materials must meet the Criteria for the Selection of Core Materials above.

### **Recommendation of Core Instructional Materials**

The IMC will receive recommended district material proposals through superintendent-assigned staff. Core material will be reviewed according to superintendent-established procedures to ensure compliance with the above selection criteria and by using instructional material evaluation tools listed on the OSPI website:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/InstructionalMaterialsReview.aspx>

Based on their evaluation, the IMC will recommend instructional materials to the board for adoption.

### **Adoption of Core Instructional Materials**

Core material will be approved by the board prior to their use in classrooms. Texts selected previously are exempt from this requirement.

### **Regularly Scheduled Core Material Updates**

Any courses using OER as their core material shall annually convene a representative group of district teachers of the course to revise and improve the core material. Adaptations shall be based on teacher and student suggestions and data from state or district assessments identifying areas of lower student performance. Revised versions of the core material will be implemented for the following school year.

If the adaptations to the core material results in significant changes to course objectives or scope, the revised resource shall be forwarded to the Instructional Materials Committee for consideration and, formal recommendation for board adoption.

### **Exceptional Needs or Rapidly Changing Circumstances**

The superintendent or designee may authorize the acquisition of alternative core instructional materials to meet exceptional needs or rapidly changing circumstances. However, expanded use of core instructional materials selected for exceptional needs will require adoption through the formal process.

### **College in the High School, Advanced Placement (AP), and/or International Baccalaureate (IB)**

[College in the High School](#), AP, and/or IB courses may have varying course designs as necessitated by their course credit transfer requirements.

### **Field Testing**

The Superintendent or designee may consider the use of field testing as part of the adoption process. Field testing can provide a flexible opportunity to investigate the effectiveness of curricular approaches, instructional materials, and/or assessment resources through careful experimentation for an identified purpose based on student needs.

Trial-use core instructional material of an experimental, field-test nature may be authorized for use by the superintendent for a period of no more than one school year prior to adoption through the formal process.

### **Citizen Access to View Core Materials**

Members of the community are invited to review any core instructional materials in current or proposed use. Such review may be accomplished at the school, in the district office, or online. The review and examination process should be arranged in a way to avoid disrupting the educational program. The review of core materials should be undertaken with the knowledge of district objectives in mind.

### **Intervention Instructional Material Selection**

Instructional materials designed to support strategic or intensive intervention for students who are at risk of not meeting established learning standards will be approved by the superintendent or designee based upon evidence from reputable sources (e.g., National Center on Response to Intervention, Johns Hopkins Best Evidence Encyclopedia).

### **Alternative Core Instructional Material Selection**

The superintendent, or designee, will establish procedures through which schools may be approved to use alternative core materials for specialized course offerings or flexible learning environments. In many cases, the superintendent may decide that selection of these alternative core materials be made by certificated staff designated by the building principal.

### **Supplemental Material Selection**

Supplemental materials will not require IMC approval or board adoption.

The superintendent shall delegate responsibility for examining, evaluating, and selecting all supplemental and temporary supplemental materials to the principal or professional staff of the district. This includes preparing all student reading lists using state standards-aligned

resources/repositories. Staff will rely on reason and professional judgment in the selection of high quality supplemental materials that align to state learning standards and are appropriate for the instructional program and developmental level and interests of their students. While supplemental materials do not require item-by-item approval of the IMC, staff are expected to thoroughly preview such materials and to give due consideration to the text complexity, developmental level of students; appropriateness of language or images; bias against racial, gender, ethnic, or other social groups; and other sensitive issues.

### **Temporary Supplemental Material Selection**

Professional staff of the district will rely on reason and professional judgment in the selection of high quality temporary supplemental materials that are appropriate for the instructional program and developmental level and interests of their students.

### **Protest Procedure for Instructional Materials**

When a parent/guardian or employee challenges any instructional materials used or restricted from use in the schools, the following steps should be taken:

1. Concerns should first be discussed with the certificated teacher and/or the school principal. All parties are urged to resolve the concern at this level.
2. If the concerns cannot be resolved through discussion at the school level, the following steps will be taken and the challenged instructional material will continue to be used until a decision is rendered:
  - a. If the challenged instructional material is supplemental in nature, at a parent's written request to the principal, the supplemental material may be asked to be withdrawn from their student. The principal shall facilitate a meeting of the complainant(s) and appropriate school staff. Following the meeting, the principal shall respond with a written decision. If warranted by the scope of the supplemental material, an appeal may be submitted to the Superintendent, or designee requesting review by the Instructional Materials Committee and a written decision.
  - b. If the instructional material is core, alternative core, or intervention material, the parent/guardian or employee may register a request for reconsideration with the Superintendent or designee. This request will be forwarded to the Instructional Materials Review committee. The IMC will review the complaint and establish a timely process for public consideration of the complaint, if appropriate.

All instructional material reconsideration decisions will be by majority vote of the IMC and are final. Decisions of the committee will be delivered in writing to the Superintendent, complainant, and affected staff within ten (10) school business days.

Effective: March, 2016

**Request for Approval of Supplemental Instructional Materials**

- Supplemental: used frequently and with many students as part of adopted curriculum (IMC approval is required)
- Occasional: used infrequently, with only a few students over the course of the school year (Principal approval is required)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author/Publisher/Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Material (book, pamphlet, video, software, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

For use in what age/grade and subject area: \_\_\_\_\_

This resource is related to the following curriculum standard(s)/benchmark(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It will be used to further student learning/understanding in the following ways: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If the material failed to pass the screen for bias or controversy (see reverse), how do you propose to deal with the bias or controversy? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I have previewed this material in its entirety.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Complete reverse side and submit to principal.

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Check one: This material has been  approved or  disapproved because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please complete the following checklists.

**Criteria for Selection and Use**

- Y N Is this resource consistent with district philosophy and mission?  
 Y N Does this resource align with district and state curriculum standards?  
 Y N Does this resource support and enrich the curriculum, considering the varied instructional needs, abilities and maturity levels of student served?  
 Y N Does this resource stimulate student growth in conceptual thinking, factual knowledge, physical and emotional well being, literary appreciation and development of aesthetic values and ethical standards?  
 Y N Is this resource of sufficient variety so as to objectively present differing views of issues, controversial or otherwise, in order that young citizens may develop analytical and decision-making skills?  
 Y N Does this resource contribute to the understanding of the diversity of life in America and other world cultures?  
 Y N Does this resource represent the contributions to society of both sexes?  
 Y N Does this resource provide models for the development of self-respect, pride and an appreciation of differences?  
 Y N Does this resource reflect a respect for the worth and dignity of people?  
 Y N Does this resource provide appropriate learning experiences for special needs students?

**Checklist for Bias or Controversy**

- Y N Are racially derogatory terms used in the material?  
 Y N Are there minority characters portrayed stereotypically?  
 Y N Does this material contain racial, ethnic, age, or sexual bias?  
 Y N Does this resource contain controversial or sensitive material?  
 Y N Does this resource contain only the viewpoint of a special interest group?  
 Y N Does this resource contain passages regarding intimate sexual contact?  
 Y N Does this resource contain profanity and/or excessive violence?

**For video or electronic media, please answer the following:**

Is it to be used for  reward/entertainment  classroom instruction  
 What is it rated? \_\_\_\_\_ Does it have a parental advisory notification?  Yes  No  
 How long is it? \_\_\_\_\_ Students will view:  Excerpts  Entire video

Submit completed form to your school principal.

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 (For Principal Use)

Copy forwarded to IMC for consideration

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Application for Parent Participation on  
Lynden School District Instructional Materials Committee**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian of (please list):

Name	Grade Level	School

School that you would like to represent:

- Bernice Vossbeck Elementary
- Fisher Elementary
- Isom Elementary
- Lynden Middle School
- Lynden High School
- Lynden Academy

Have you participated on an instructional materials committee for Lynden School District in the past?  Yes  No If yes, when (dates): \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your instructional areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submit this form to the Lynden School District Office  
516 Main Street  
Lynden, WA 98264

**Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Instructional or Library Materials**

1. Identification:

Date of request: \_\_\_\_\_

Request initiated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Citizen represents:

\_\_\_ Self

\_\_\_ Organization (please name): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Materials to be reconsidered:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Use additional pages as necessary \*\*

4. Date of conference with certificated staff regarding materials: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Date of conference with principal regarding material: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you object to in the instructional materials? (Please be specific. Cite pages.)

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7. What do you feel might be the result of exposure to this material?

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8. What age group would you recommend this material for? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. In your opinion is there anything good about this material? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Did you read, hear, or see the entire content? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What do you believe is the theme of this material? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What would you like your school to do about this material?

Do not assign it to my child.

Withdraw it from all students as well as from my child.

13. What material would you recommend in its place that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Citizen's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Signature/Date Received