

Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District
Library Media Center Selection Policy
Policy No. 4513
Adopted February 11, 2008

Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District Mission Statement

The mission of the Remsenburg-Speonk School District is to prepare all students with the knowledge, competencies, social responsibilities, and positive self-image to be life-long learners and contributing members of society.

The Remsenburg-Speonk School District will provide programs and conditions that maximize learning success so that all students meet individual high-level performance standards.

Remsenburg-Speonk Library Media Center Mission Statement

The mission of the Remsenburg-Speonk Library Media Center is to make available to faculty and students a collection of materials that will enrich and support the curriculum and school mission and meet the needs of the students and faculty served. The library recognizes that freedom of inquiry is vital to education in a democracy. The library will provide students with a wide range of educational materials on all levels of difficulty and in a variety of formats, with diversity of appeal, allowing for the presentation of many different points of view.

Library Media Center Selection Policy

Books and Materials are selected for our library if they meet the following criteria:

- Integral to the instructional program, curriculum, and school and library mission;
- Appropriate for the reading level and understanding of students in the school;
- Reflect the interests and needs of the students and faculty served by the media center;
- Possess literary and/or artistic value and merit;
- Present information with the greatest degree of accuracy and clarity possible;
- Represent a fair and unbiased presentation of information. In controversial areas, the library media specialist, in cooperation with the faculty, should select materials representing as many shades of opinion as possible, in order that varying viewpoints are available to students.

Library Deselection Policy

Books will be deselected, or weeded, using the University of Texas “MUSTIE” criteria:

- **Misleading:** The item is misleading and/or factually inaccurate.
- **Ugly:** The item is ugly, which means it is worn and beyond mending. Replacement copies will be purchased for classics and extremely popular items.
- **Superseded:** The information contained in the item is superseded by a truly new edition or by a much better book on the subject.
- **Trivial:** The item is trivial, or of no discernible literary or scientific merit.
- **Irrelevant:** The item is irrelevant to the needs and interests of our community. This may be assessed through circulation and in-library usage statistics generated by the Follett Circulation Software.
- **Elsewhere:** The material may be obtained expeditiously elsewhere through interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing, the Virtual Reference Collection, or the open Internet.

Reconsideration Policy

Reconsiderations must be submitted in writing and include detailed, well-researched supporting reasons why the library material in question is inconsistent with the Library Selection Policy. A committee will be formed of the Library Media Specialist, Superintendent/Principal, member of the Board of Education, and member of the teaching faculty to review the item. The reconsideration committee will bear in mind the Library Selection Policy. The committee will thoroughly study the item and read available reviews. The general acceptance of the material will be checked by consulting standard evaluation aids and local holdings in other schools. Passages or parts should not be pulled out of context. The values and faults should be weighed against each other and the opinions based on the materials as a whole.

If the committee determines that the item is consistent with the selection policy and should remain part of the collection or assigned reading, the parent and child may choose not read the item. In this case, a list of alternatives within the same genre and similar reading level will be provided.

Request for Reconsideration of a Book

Author _____

Title _____

Request Initiated by _____

Telephone _____ Address _____

Complainant Represents:

_____ Myself

_____ Organization or Other Group (Please specify): _____

To what do you object: (Please be specific; cite pages)

How is the book inconsistent with the Library Selection Policy?

What do you feel might be the result of reading this book?

Is there anything positive about this book?

Did you read the entire book? _____

Are you aware of the judgment of this book by literary critics? _____

If yes, please cite sources _____

What do you believe is the theme of this book?

In regard to this, what action do you suggest?

In its place, what book of equal literary quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of our civilization? _____

Signature of Complainant