

MOVING FORWARD TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS



October 3, 2023 LCS School Board Meeting



Our “Why?”

- Input from parents, faculty, and community members who have a wide variety of opinions
- Community engagement in the operations of our schools is valued
- Provide information and updates regarding policies, processes, and procedures

Our Time Tonight:

- Provide information and updates
- Allow board to discuss and ask questions
- Offer time for public comment
- Continue with our regular board meeting agenda

Goal:

Tonight is about sharing information and listening to input. We have not included any formal action items on this topic as part of tonight’s agenda.



Essential Question

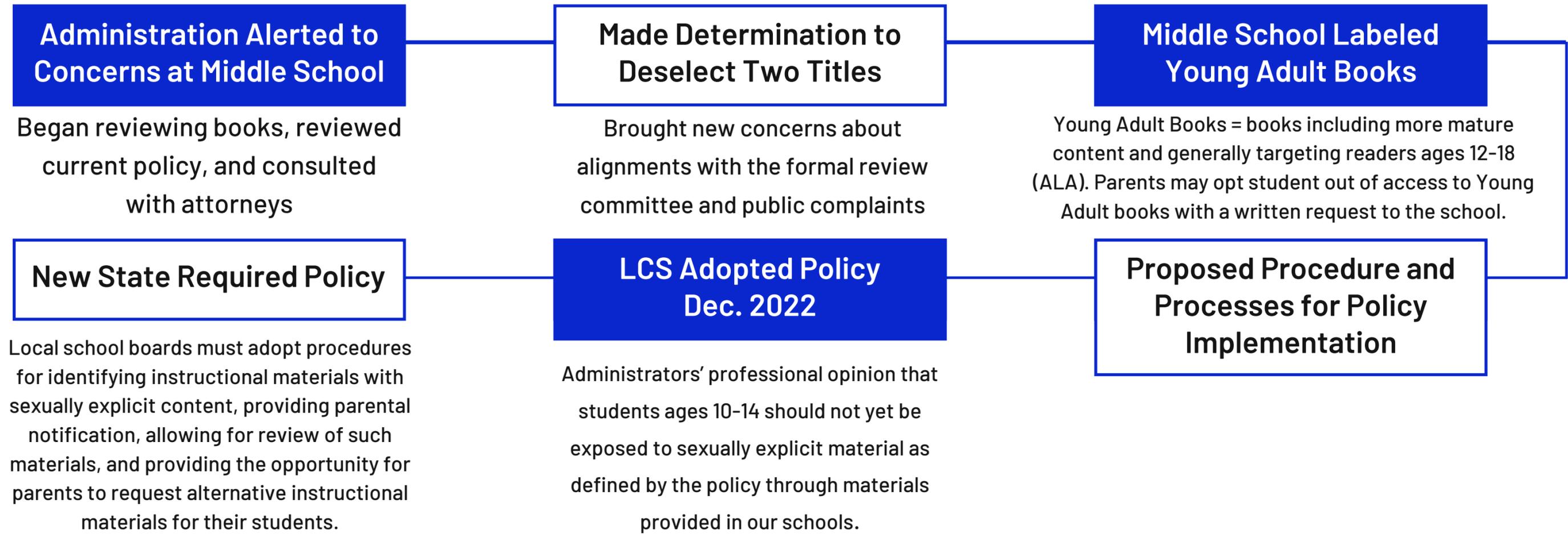


How are books and materials currently selected for our school libraries?

- Books are selected primarily by the school librarian with input from other faculty based on an evaluation of the current collection, considering the interests of the readers, reviewing recommended and award-winning books, reviewing diverse authors and experiences, and choosing materials to support the Standards of Learning.
- Our libraries are filled with thousands of books and not every book is read before it is added to the collection.
- The middle school library is somewhat of a “gray area” where the challenge is providing books and materials that will meet the needs and interests of 10-14 year olds with some readers on the younger end and others who may be ready for books considered to be “young adult”.



How Did We Get Here?



“Sexually Explicit Content”

By policy, “Sexually explicit content” means:

(a) any description of or

(b) any picture, photograph, drawing, motion picture film, digital image or similar visual representation depicting sexual bestiality, a lewd exhibition of nudity, as defined in this policy, sexual excitement, sexual conduct or sadomasochistic abuse, as defined in this policy, coprophilia, urophilia, or fetishism. Instructional materials shall not be designated as sexually explicit based solely on the sexual orientation of the characters therein.

Material that includes a statement that sexual activity occurred is not sexually explicit as defined by this policy.

Material that describes in graphic detail how the sexual activity occurred is sexually explicit, as defined by this policy.

Instructional materials used in the Family Life curriculum are exempt from this policy. Such materials are governed by Family Life Education Policy IGAH.

Current Situation & Considerations

- Our teachers in K-8 classrooms have not identified any classroom instructional materials considered “sexually explicit” by the policy’s definition.
- Under this policy, library materials are considered instructional materials if they are used for completion of an assignment or as part of an academic or extracurricular program in our schools.
- I am recommending that “instructional materials” and “library materials” include two separate policies.
- Our focus is on making sure that the library’s collection is age and developmentally appropriate. **The ALA’s selection criteria toolkit states that for libraries serving minors, the library media specialist should consider the age, social and emotional development, intellectual level, interest level, and reading levels of students served through the library. In this case, students ages 4-11 in grades K-5 and students ages 10-14 in grades 6-8.**
- We will continue to offer a wide range of quality materials that reflect a diversity of ideas and authors with selection criteria that center around the focus of the library emphasizing the educational goals of the school district.

Recommendations

- Revisions to Policy IIA-R Instructional Materials with Sexually Explicit Content
- New clear and accessible procedures regarding library materials selection and maintenance at the elementary and middle schools
- Updated Public Request for Reconsideration separating instructional materials and library materials and adding an initial school-level review with the involved teacher and principal and providing clear procedures for review and reconsideration involving a review committee
- Add an option where parents can be emailed a receipt for materials their student checks out from the library

Implications

- Teachers inform administration if they plan to use any instructional materials considered sexually explicit as part of their class instead of the librarian compiling this information
- **What kinds of books does the school board wish to have included or not included in the library's collection at the elementary and middle schools keeping in mind the educational goals and vision for the school district?**

DRAFT Policy Revisions :

- **The following revised DRAFT policies are included for information in the provided packet:**
 - IIA-R Instructional Materials With Sexually Explicit Content
 - IIBD School Libraries/Media Centers
 - IIBD-R Selection and Maintenance of School and Classroom Library Materials
 - KLB-IM Public Complaints About Instructional Materials
 - KLB-IM-F Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials
 - KLB-LM Public Complaints About Library Materials
 - KLB-LM-F Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Key Takeaways:



- Proposing new draft procedures for library selection and management criteria that reference ALA for school libraries serving minors and includes a recommendation prohibiting explicitly graphic, violent, vulgar, obscene, and sexually explicit content
- Recommend separating public complaint policies for library materials and instructional materials with a school-level review as a first step
- Modification of the reconsideration review committee membership and steps
- Consideration of a library check-out notification option for parents

Discussion and Questions?

