

M

REGULATION #2200 CURRICULUM CONTENT

In order to eliminate possible bias in the curriculum, staff shall use the following criteria:

A. When reading material contains stereotypes or discriminatory statements, staff should help pupils identify the stereotypes or discriminatory statement(s) and discuss with pupils the consequences of repeated stereotyping and discriminatory statements. It is recommended that pupils suggest changes that could have been made in the story or worksheet so it would not be discriminatory. N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.3(e) (f)

B. If a particular reading material is highly objectionable, staff should not use it, N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.3(f); such material should be brought to the attention of the building principal so that the Affirmative Action Officer can evaluate the objectionable material. Alternatively, another teacher might discuss the questionable material instead of eliminating it, depending on the makeup and maturity of the class.

C. Another recommended technique for handling materials that contain biases or stereotypes is to offset it by reading unbiased supplementary materials, N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.3(f). This can be done in cases such as these:

1. When there is clearly an unequal number of stories about boys and girls as central characters;
2. When girls and boys do not participate equally in outdoor or indoor activities;
3. When women are shown only as mothers and homemakers;
4. When working women hold no other jobs but teacher, nurse, secretary, or librarian;
5. When only male/female Caucasians hold white-collar jobs;
6. When boys, girls, or certain minorities are not shown to be self-reliant, intelligent, and respectful toward one another;
7. When boys, girls, or certain minorities are shown to be helpless, timid, and passive;
8. When boys, girls, senior citizens, or other minorities are shown to look silly, unintelligent, foolish, or clumsy; or
9. When there are very few stories with minority group members as main characters.

D. If a teacher is using any reading materials that have one or more of the above weaknesses, they shall bring it to the attention of the building principal so that it can be considered by the Affirmative Action Officer for appropriate action.

Issued: 11 June 1997