

## Policy 738: School Libraries

The primary function of a school's library is to implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. The center provides materials at various levels of sophistication with a wide range of appeal and the presentation of diverse points of view as supported by our division inclusivity statement.

The mission of the school library program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. The role of the school librarian is to empower students to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skilled researchers, and ethical users of information by:

- collaborating with educators and students to design and teach engaging learning experiences that meet individual needs.
- instructing students and assisting educators in using, evaluating, and producing information and ideas through active use of a broad range of appropriate tools, resources, and information technologies.
- providing access to materials in all formats, including up-to-date, high-quality, varied literature to develop and strengthen a love of reading.
- providing students and staff with instruction and resources that reflect current information needs and anticipated changes in technology and education.

A library shall be organized as a resource center for the school community. The library shall provide diverse and inclusive print and digital resources in English, Spanish, and other languages present in the school community to meet research, inquiry, and reading requirements of the instructional program and to respond to and generate student interest. Diverse materials shall be included as supported by HCPS's commitment to inclusivity and audited regularly.

The HCPS School Board delegates responsibility for the selection and maintenance of the library materials for purchase and distribution to the librarians. The librarian evaluates, selects, and discards library materials on a continuous, systematic basis based on school-wide objectives, strengths and gaps in the existing collection, the library goals and objectives, and input from faculty, parents, and students.

Each school maintains an organized library media center as the resource center of the school and provides a unified program of media services and activities for students and teachers before, during and after school. The library media center contains hard copy, electronic technological resources, materials, and equipment that are sufficient to meet research, inquiry, and reading requirements of the instructional program and general student interest.

Each school provides a variety of materials, resources and equipment to support the instructional program.

### *Legal References:*

- Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.

- 8 VAC 20-131-190

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