

Section 2: PHILOSOPHY

Mansfield ISD Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide a superior education to each student within our diverse community by encouraging mutual respect and enthusiasm for learning in a safe and friendly environment.

Mansfield ISD Library Media Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Mansfield ISD Library Media Services program is to increase learning through information literacy and a love of reading. This is effectively done with collaboration between librarians and teachers who provide educational opportunities for each student within our diverse community, which enables students to be literate life-long learners. To do this, the library community will:

1. Facilitate demonstrations that illustrate how existing and emerging information can enrich the learning environment and process.
2. Assist students and teachers in the planning and achievement of individual goals relating to reading and information literacy.
3. Support further change and risk taking in using libraries to impact successful learning opportunities.

*The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services. More information on this philosophy can be found on the American Library Association website at: www.ala.org.
The Mansfield ISD Library Media Program incorporates these considerations into its philosophy and policy:*

Library Bill of Rights

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948, by the ALA Council; amended February 2, 1961; amended June 28, 1967;

Amended January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 24, 1996.

Position Statement on Flexible Scheduling

The Mansfield ISD Library and Media Services recognizes that site-based management decisions play a significant role in the operations of the LMC. Therefore, the level of implementation of Flexible Scheduling may be determined at the campus level. However, every effort must be made to continually move in the direction of full implementation of the Flexible Scheduling precepts outlined in the following statement. For more information on flexible scheduling, please see the following link:

American Association of School Libraries: Position Statement on Flexible Scheduling

[..http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/positionstatements/aaslpositionstatement.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/positionstatements/aaslpositionstatement.cfm)

Schools must adopt the educational philosophy that the library media program is fully integrated into the educational program. This integration strengthens the teaching/learning process so that students can develop the vital skills necessary to locate, analyze, evaluate, interpret, and communicate information and ideas. When the library media program is fully integrated into the instructional program of the school, students, teachers, and library media specialists become partners in learning. The library program is an extension of the classroom. Information skills are taught and learned within the context of the classroom curriculum. The wide range of resources, technologies, and services needed to meet students learning and information needs are readily available in a cost-effective manner.

The integrated library media program philosophy requires that an open schedule must be maintained. Classes cannot be scheduled in the library media center to provide teacher release or preparation time. Students and teachers must be able to come to the center throughout the day to use information sources, to read for pleasure, and to meet and work with other students and teachers.

Planning between the library media specialist and the classroom teacher, which encourages both scheduled and informal visits, is the catalyst that makes this integrated library program work. The teacher brings to the planning process a knowledge of subject content and student needs. The teacher brings to the planning process a knowledge of subject content and student needs. The library media specialist contributes a broad knowledge of resources and technology, an understanding of teaching methods, and a wide range of strategies that may be employed to help students learn information skills. Cooperative planning by the teacher and library media specialist integrates information skills and materials into the classroom curriculum and results in the development of assignments that encourage open inquiry.

The responsibility for flexibly scheduled library media programs must be shared by the entire school community.

The Mansfield ISD administration endorses the philosophy that the library program is an integral part of the district's educational program and ensures that flexible scheduling for library media centers is maintained in all buildings and at all levels.

THE PRINCIPAL creates the appropriate climate within the school by advocating the benefits of flexible scheduling to the faculty, by monitoring scheduling, by ensuring appropriate staffing levels, and by providing joint planning time for classroom teachers and library media specialists.

THE TEACHER uses resource--based instruction and views the library media program as an integral part of that instruction.

THE LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST is knowledgeable about curriculum and classroom activities, and works cooperatively with the classroom teacher to integrate information skills into the curriculum.

Adopted June 1991 by the American Association of School Librarians.