

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CRITERIA

### APPENDIX 3: CULTURAL/ETHNIC BIAS

Review the instructional materials using the following criteria:

#### CULTURAL

- Materials contain racial/ethnic balance in main characters and in illustrations.
- Minorities are represented as central characters in story and illustrations.
- Minority characters are shown in a variety of lifestyles in active, decision-making, and leadership roles.
- Materials provide an opportunity for a variety of racial, ethnic, and cultural perspectives.
- The vocabulary of racism is avoided.
- Stereotyping language is avoided.
- No bias in regards to race, creed, religion, color, and/or national origin.
- No bias in regards to honorably discharged veteran or military status.
- Biographical or historical materials include minority characters and their discoveries and contributions to society.

#### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- Qualities of character such as leadership, imagination, courage, and integrity are distributed among non-handicapped persons and persons with disabilities.
- Non-handicapped persons and persons with disabilities are represented as central characters in story and illustrations.
- Non-handicapped persons and persons with disabilities are shown performing similar work in related fields.
- Persons with disabilities are referred to by their names and roles rather than their disabilities.
- No bias in regards to the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog-guide or service animal.
- Biographical and historical materials include contributions to society by persons with disabilities.

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

- Social class groupings portray all individuals in a variety of roles (both positive and negative).
- Oversimplified generalizations about social classes and groups are avoided.
- All individuals are judged by their degree of moral and intellectual strength of character rather than their socio-economic status.
- No bias in regards to sexual orientation including gender expression or identity.
- Characters are described by their behaviors, beliefs, and values rather than by unnecessary socio-economic descriptors.

#### FAMILY

- Family models are depicted without bias. Family models may include the traditional nuclear family model, extended families, single parents, adopted children, foster children, step-parents, etc.
- Respect for family and community is fostered as a shared value of the civilized social order.

Adapted from: *Washington Models for the Evaluation of Bias Content in Instructional Materials, Equality and Civil Rights Office, OSPI, November 2008.*