

LEARNING RESOURCES SELECTION AND ADOPTION

Background

The Division believes in providing a wide range of learning resource materials at varying levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and which present different points of view to meet the curricular and non-curricular needs of students and staff.

The Division believes selection of appropriate materials is a professional activity, most appropriately carried out by the members of the professional teaching staff.

However, the Division also believes, in recognition of community standards, student ability and readiness, selection may be based on more than personal preference.

Procedures

1. Objectives of Selection

1.1 The primary objective of learning resources selection is to support, implement and enrich curriculum through the provision of appropriate instructional materials, to students and teachers.

1.1.1 To provide learning resources pertaining to various sides of course related controversial issues so that students may have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, the practice of critical analysis in order to make informed judgments in their daily lives.

1.1.2 To provide learning resources representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our national heritage and the world community. Such materials should not discriminate in a negative way against any individual or group.

1.1.3 To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to ensure a comprehensive collection appropriate to the school community.

1.2 The promotion of reading enjoyment and the development of the habit of library use to meet the needs of daily life is also an objective of the selection policy. It is the responsibility of the professional staff to select materials which meet the non-curricular interests of the school community.

2. Responsibility for Selection of Learning Resources

2.1 The Superintendent delegates responsibility for selection of learning resources to the school Library Selection Committee identified in each school.

2.2 The Principal is responsible for all resources used in the instructional process within the school.

2.3 Teachers are responsible for all learning resources used in their classes.

3. Challenged Learning Resource Materials

- 3.1 Division residents or staff members may challenge learning resource materials used in the Division. Thereby, the opinion of those members of the community not involved in the selection process may be considered.
- 3.2 Guiding Principles
 - 3.2.1 Responsibility for the selection of materials purchased with public funds (other than those materials recommended by Alberta Education) ultimately rests with the Superintendent.
 - 3.2.2 No parent has the right to determine reading, viewing, or listening matter for students other than for his/her own children.
 - 3.2.3 The major criterion for the final decision shall be the appropriateness of the material for its intended use.
 - 3.2.4 Access to challenged materials may not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
 - 3.2.5 The decision to sustain a challenge shall not necessarily be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professionals involved in the original selection and/or use of learning resources materials.
- 3.3 Request for Formal Reconsideration
 - 3.3.1 The completed "Request for Reconsideration of a Learning Resource" form shall be forwarded to the Superintendent.

Reference: Section 39, 60, 61, School Act