

SELECTION OF LEARNING RESOURCES

The selection and use of learning resources must be consistent with the Principles of Learning, with Resource-Based Learning and with Provincial Curriculum Documents. In addition to the wide range of materials in the Provincial lists of Recommended Resources and the Grade Collections, there are other appropriate resources which staff may select to meet the needs and interests of our student population.

The School District supports the provision of a wide range of learning resources at varying levels of difficulty and with diversity of appeal to meet the needs of students and teachers.

Definition:

For the purpose of this procedure, the term "learning resources" will refer to any person(s) or any material (whether acquired or locally produced) with instructional content or function that is used for formal or informal teaching/learning purposes during instructional time. Learning Resources include print and other audio and visual materials, computer software, websites, computer accessible data, community agencies, organizations and people.

1. The primary objective of learning resources is to support and enrich the implementation of the educational program of the school.
2. To this end, the School District affirms that it is the responsibility of its professional staff:
 - to utilize only resource materials that support and enrich the curriculum;
 - to utilize materials which will permit young citizens to practice critical analysis and to make informed judgements;
 - to provide materials representative of our multi-cultural and pluralistic community;
 - to ensure learning resources are appropriate to the age of the students involved.
3. The primary selection guides for learning resources are the lists of Recommended Resources found in the Curriculum Collections published by the Ministry.
4. Resources providing only entertainment value and not directly related to the learning outcomes of a curriculum should not be used during instructional time.

Responsibility for Selection of Learning Resources

While selection of learning resources may involve many people (administrators, teachers, students, parents, community persons, resource centre personnel), the responsibility for coordinating the selection of school learning resources and making the recommendation for purchase or use rests with the School Principal and professional personnel.

Criteria for Selection of Learning Resources

- a. The following criteria will be used as they apply:
 - i. Learning resources shall support and be consistent with the general educational goals and curriculum of the Province and School District and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses.
 - ii. Learning resources shall meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation.
 - iii. Learning resources shall be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social development of the students for whom the materials are selected.
 - iv. Learning resources should help students gain an awareness of our pluralistic society.
 - v. Learning resources should motivate students and staff to examine their own attitudes and behaviours and to comprehend their own duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges as participating citizens in our society.
 - vi. Biased or slanted learning resources may be provided to meet specific curriculum objectives; for example, to recognize propaganda and its purpose in a given context or to balance an argument.
 - vii. Attention to gender equity and multiculturalism shall be maintained in the selection and use of learning resources.
 - viii. Where a rating on a resource suggests parental guidance, individual parental permission should be sought before the resource is used.
- b. The selection of learning resources on controversial issues will be directed towards maintaining a balanced collection representing various views.
- c. Emphasis will be placed on the selection of Canadian learning resources where appropriate.

Procedures for Selection of Learning Resources

- a. In selecting learning resources, professional personnel will evaluate available resources and curriculum needs and will consult reputable, professionally prepared aids to selection and other appropriate sources. The actual resource will be examined whenever possible.
- b. Recommendations for purchase or other acquisition may involve administrators, teachers, students, School District personnel, community persons and parents as appropriate.
- c. Gift materials shall be judged by the criteria outlined and shall be accepted or rejected by those criteria.
- d. Learning resource selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials which are no longer appropriate according to the criteria for the selection of learning resources.

Entertainment Resources

Resources providing only entertainment value may be used as part of an extracurricular activity and shall be rated for, and appropriate to, the age of the students involved.

Resources in School Libraries and Learning Commons

It is important that schools provide learning resources that are suitable and developmentally appropriate for students of all ages and abilities enrolled at the school. Given the wide range of ages and developmental levels in K-12 schools, school library and learning commons collections should ensure:

- a. the availability of various resources on a particular topic that are appropriate for a range of reading and developmental levels;
- b. that procedures are in place to prevent access to age-inappropriate materials for younger students (for example, a “Teen / Young Adult” section in the library of a K-12 school that is not accessible to primary students).

Process for Challenging the Appropriateness of Learning Resources

The appropriateness of any learning resource may be challenged by any resident, employee, or student using the process defined in Administrative Procedure 203.