

AP 2200: Learning Resources: Selection, Challenge and Reconsideration

Districts have responsibility for determining how learning resources are chosen for use in schools. Districts have the authority to select resource materials for all courses, and they attempt to provide a wide range of resource materials to meet the diverse needs and interests of students. Consequently, it is expected that selected learning resources will provide for a range of teaching and learning styles as well as for the presentation of different points of view to meet the needs of students and teachers.

Learning resources will refer to any material (whether acquired or locally produced) with instructional content or function that is used for formal or informal teaching/learning purposes. Learning resources may include, but are not limited to, print and non-print materials; audio, visual, electronic and digital hardware/software resources.

The District acknowledges the right of an individual to question and/or challenge the selection and use of any resource materials.

Procedures

1. Responsibility for Selection of Learning Resources

- 1.1. The Director of Instruction - Innovative Learning will ensure that principals are aware of the relevant sections of the [School Act](#), Regulations and Minister's Orders, Board policy, and administrative procedures, with regard to the selection of learning resources.
- 1.2. Principals and supervisors shall approve and review annually with their staff, and make available for easy reference, approved criteria for the selection of learning resources.
- 1.3. Sound professional judgement must be used by teachers and prior consultation with the principal or supervisor is recommended in the use of resource materials dealing with sensitive issues and/or controversial topics.

2. Criteria for the Selection of Learning Resources

- 2.1. Resource materials shall be appropriate in terms of students age, grade level, and maturity and learning needs and of the particular teaching/learning environment. Principals and District employees are to adhere to the processes of the selection of learning resources as outlined in the [Focused Education Resources \(FER\)](#) - Social Considerations for K-12 Education.
- 2.2. Learning resources shall support and be consistent with the educational goals of the province and with the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses and BC curriculum.
- 2.3. Learning resources shall meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation.

- 2.4. Learning resources shall be as free as possible of bias and stereotyping. Biased or slanted 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. Teachers may request a review of learning resources prior to introducing this type of material.
- 2.5. The selection of learning resources on sensitive issues and controversial topics will be directed toward maintaining a balanced collection representing various views so that students may have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, the practices of critical analysis and informed decision-making in their daily lives.
- 2.6. To review curricular novels, teachers are encouraged to consult [FER's K-12 Evaluated Resource Collection](#).
- 2.7. For curricular learning resources not included in 2.6, professional staff may request a resource review: [FER Evaluation Request](#)
- 2.8. Learning resources must meet the requirements set by [copyright](#) and [privacy legislation](#).
- 2.9. Selection of learning resources is an ongoing process that includes the culling of materials that are no longer appropriate to curricular needs.
3. Challenges to, and Reconsideration of, Learning Resources
 - 3.1. Parents have the right to challenge the selection and use of any learning resources not previously evaluated on [FER's K-12 Evaluated Resource Collection](#).
 - 3.2. Learning resources selected by teachers that may result in a challenge are first to be reviewed at the school level by a broad-based working group, under the guidance of the Principal. The procedures outlined in section 2 above must be adhered to in determining the suitability of the learning resources in question.
 - 3.3. A principal receiving a complaint regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue.
 - 3.4. In the event a challenge or complaint cannot be resolved as per 3.3 above, the challenge is then to be made through the Innovative Learning Department, to a District Materials Review Working Group consisting of the Director of Instruction and Innovative Learning, the District Principal of Innovative Learning, the Literacy District Teacher Coordinator, and the Numeracy District Teacher Coordinator using AP Appendix 2200: Application for Reconsideration of Learning Materials.