



POLICY NO. 6180

SELECTION OF LEARNING RESOURCES

POLICY

The policy of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) is to provide a wide range of learning resources to support individual student needs and a variety of teaching and learning styles.

The primary objective of learning resources is to support, enrich, and to help implement the educational program of the school through the interaction of professional personnel and other members of the school community. It is up to the professional staff to provide students with a wide range of materials at varying levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal and the presentation of different points of view.

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REGULATIONS

1. Objectives of Selection

- 1.1 For the purposes of this statement of policy, the term "learning resources" will refer to any material (whether acquired or locally produced) with instructional content. Learning resources encompass a variety of media including, but not limited to, video, software, print, and on-line information.
- 1.2 Teachers may use provincially recommended or locally approved learning resources to support provincial or locally developed curricula. Recommended means the legal status granted to a learning resource which has been evaluated and approved by the Ministry for use in all BC schools. The Board grants continued "recommended status" for resources which have previously received Provincial Recommendation unless that recommendation has been withdrawn because of controversy.
- 1.3 Evaluation of learning resources must be in accordance with section 168(2)(e) of the School Act as outlined in *Ministerial Order M289/01*.

2. Criteria for Selection:

- 2.1 Learning resources shall support and be consistent with the policy directives of the Ministry of Education and with the provincially prescribed curricula.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Learning resources shall be fair, objective, free from bias, propaganda, discrimination and sex-role stereotyping, except where a teaching/learning situation requires illustrative material to develop critical thinking about such issues.
- 2.4 Learning resources shall present various sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, the practice of critical analysis and make informed judgments in their daily lives.
- 2.5 Learning resources shall meet high standards of quality in factual content and/or aesthetic, literary, and/or social values.
- 2.6 Learning resources shall be representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and of their contributions to our national heritage and the world community.

- 2.7 Learning resources shall be designed to 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.
- 2.8 Learning resources shall be purchased and used in compliance with current copyright legislation.
- 2.9 Emphasis shall be placed on the selection of Canadian learning resources where appropriate. These resources include learning materials from a variety of media by or about a Canadian person, about a region or event, and/or published or produced in Canada.

3. Responsibility for Selection of Learning Resources

- 3.1 The Board approves learning resources that are provincially evaluated and carry the status of Ministry Recommended or Educational Resource Acquisition Consortium Evaluated. All other learning resources must be vetted through the following process.
 - 3.1.1 The Board delegates the responsibility for the selection of learning resources to the professional staff employed by the school system.
 - 3.2 While selection of learning resources involves many people (administrators, teachers, students, parents, community persons, resource centre personnel), the responsibility for the selection of school-based learning resources rests with the principal and educational staff.

4. Procedures for Selection of Learning Resources

- 4.1 In selecting learning resources, professional personnel will evaluate, based on *ERAC's Evaluating, Selecting and Managing Learning Resources: A Guide*, available resources and curriculum needs and will consult reputable, professionally prepared aids. The actual resource will be examined whenever possible.
- 4.2 Recommendations for purchase may involve administrators, teachers, district personnel, students, parents, and community persons.
- 4.3 Gift materials shall be judged by the criteria outlined and shall be accepted or rejected by those criteria.
- 4.4 Selection is an ongoing process that should include the removal of materials no longer appropriate according to the criteria for the selection of learning resources.