

LEARNING RESOURCE MATERIALS CHALLENGE

Background

Although learning resources are carefully selected to support the outcomes of the curriculum and to provide students with a rich variety of appropriate experiences, from time to time a student, parent or elector may wish to question the appropriateness of the materials being used. A person may challenge the inclusion or exclusion of specific learning resource material or instructional material.

Procedures

1. Complainant(s) will be given a copy of this administrative procedure.
2. If the resource in question appears on the Curriculum Website, the Ministry will respond to the challenger using a defined process, beginning with an effort to resolve the challenger's request informally.
3. Challenges to the inclusion or exclusion of particular learning resources are first to be brought to the attention of the Principal who will attempt to resolve the concerns through informal discussion.
4. If no solution is found, the complainant is to complete Administrative Procedure 251-1 Request for Re-evaluation of Learning Resources form.
5. Upon the receipt of a Request for Re-Evaluation of Learning Resources Form, the Director or designate shall form a Re-evaluation Committee. Membership shall include:
 - 5.1 One (1) member of the School Community Council chosen by the Director or designate.
 - 5.2 One (1) member of the school teaching staff.
 - 5.3 One (1) teacher/librarian.
 - 5.4 One (1) administrator.
6. The Re-evaluation Committee may choose to consult Division support staff and/or community persons with related professional knowledge.
7. The Re-evaluation Committee shall review the challenged resource and judge whether it conforms to the principles of selection outlined in Administrative Procedure 250 Learning Resource Materials.
8. Resolution

The Re-evaluation Committee shall proceed within these guidelines:

- 8.1 Examine the challenged resource.
- 8.2 Determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews of the resource.
- 8.3 Weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections out of context.
- 8.4 Discuss the challenged resource in the context of the educational program.
- 8.5 Prepare a written report.

9. Written Report

- 9.1 The written report shall be discussed with the individual questioner if requested.
- 9.2 The written report shall be retained by the Director with copies forwarded to the Principal and the complainant.
- 9.3 Written reports, once filed, are confidential and available for examination by trustees and appropriate officials only.
- 9.4 The decision of the Re-evaluation Committee is binding for the individual school.
- 9.5 Notwithstanding any procedure outlined, the questioner shall have the right to appeal any decision of the Re-evaluation Committee to the Board as the final review panel.

10. Guiding Principles

- 10.1 Any resident or employee of the Division may raise objection to learning resources used in a school's educational program despite the fact that the individuals selecting such resources were fully qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure and observed the criteria for selecting learning resources.
- 10.2 No parent has the right to determine reading, viewing or listening matters for students other than his/her own children.
- 10.3 Although it is the learning resources which are challenged, the principles of the freedom to read/listen/view must be defended as well.
- 10.4 Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the re-evaluation process.
- 10.5 The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.
- 10.6 A 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 the material.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 175, 231 Education Act
The School Division Administration Regulations 45
The Education Regulations 37

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