

CHALLENGES TO LEARNING RESOURCE MATERIALS - POLICY -

Any resident or employee of the school district may formally challenge learning resources used in the district's educational program on the basis of appropriateness.

- REGULATION -

1. REQUEST FOR INFORMAL RECONSIDERATION

1.1 The school receiving a complaint regarding a learning resource will try to resolve the issue informally.

1.1.1 The Principal or other appropriate staff will explain to the questioner the school's selection procedure, criteria, and qualifications of those persons selecting the resource.

1.1.2 The Principal or other appropriate staff will explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the education program, its intended educational usefulness, and additional information regarding its use, or refer the party to someone who can identify and explain the use of the resource.

1.1.3 If the questioner wishes to file a formal challenge, the questioner will be informed of her/his rights under this policy and a copy of the district **Selection of Learning Resources Policy** and a **Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources** form will be given/mailed by the Principal to the party concerned.

1.1.4 No book shall be removed from permanent circulation without following the formal review process as set out in section 2.

1.1.5 Notwithstanding the above, a book may be temporarily removed for 30 days pending a formal review.

2. REQUEST FOR FORMAL RECONSIDERATION OF LEARNING RESOURCES

2.1 Preliminary Procedures

- 2.1.1 The staff at the school and district will keep on hand and make available **Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources** forms. All formal objections to learning resources must be made on these forms.
 - 2.1.2 The Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources form must be signed by the questioner and filed with the school Principal if the resource is in a school, or with the Assistant Superintendent if the resource is in a district-based collection.
 - 2.1.3 The Superintendent shall be informed by the Principal of the formal complaint received with a copy to the Board.
 - 2.1.4 The request for reconsideration of materials in school-based collections shall be referred to a school reconsideration committee.
 - 2.1.5 Requests for reconsideration of materials in district-based collections shall be referred to a district reconsideration committee
- 2.2. The Reconsideration Committee
- 2.2.1 Upon receipt of a request for formal reconsideration of a learning resource in a school-based collection:
 - 2.2.1.1 the Principal is responsible for forming the Reconsideration Committee.
 - 2.2.1.2 The members of the School Reconsideration Committee will be a principal or vice-principal, one member of the school teaching staff nominated by the school staff; the Assistant Superintendent; one member of the School Parent Advisory Committee nominated by the Parent Advisory Committee; one student nominated by the student body, and a trustee.
 - 2.2.1.3 the Principal is responsible for naming the convener of the reconsideration committee;
 - 2.2.1.4 the Principal is responsible for establishing a meeting date as soon as possible after the complaint is received.
 - 2.2.2 Upon receipt of a request for formal reconsideration of a learning resource in a district-based collection:
 - 2.2.2.1 the Assistant Superintendent is responsible for forming the Reconsideration Committee.
 - 2.2.2.2 The members of the District Reconsideration Committee will be the Assistant Superintendent, one District PAC person nominated by the District PAC, one teacher and one student nominated by the Superintendent, and a trustee.
 - 2.2.2.3 the Assistant Superintendent is responsible for naming the convener of the reconsideration committee;
 - 2.2.2.4 the Assistant Superintendent is responsible for establishing a meeting date as soon as possible after the complaint is received.
 - 2.2.3 The Reconsideration Committee may choose to consult district support staff and/or community persons with related professional knowledge.

- 2.2.4 The Reconsideration Committee will review the challenged resource and judge whether it conforms to the principles of selection outlined in the district's Selection of Learning Resources policy.

3. RESOLUTION

- 3.1 The Reconsideration Committee shall proceed within these guidelines:
 - 3.1.1 Examine the challenged resource.
 - 3.1.2 Receive and consider written submissions and presentations by concerned community groups, in a public session which includes an opportunity for committee members to question presenters.
 - 3.1.3 Determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews of the resource.
 - 3.1.4 Weight values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context.
 - 3.1.5 Discuss the challenged resource in the context of the educational program.
 - 3.1.6 Prepare a written report.
- 3.2 The written report shall be discussed with the individual questioner if requested.
- 3.3 The written report shall be retained by the appropriate Principal with copies forwarded to the Superintendent and the Board. A minority report may also be filed.
- 3.4 Written reports, once filed, are available for examination.
- 3.5 The decision of the Reconsideration Committee will be implemented.
- 3.6 Notwithstanding any procedure outlined in this policy, the questioner shall have the right to appeal any decision of the Reconsideration Committee to the Board as the final review panel. **(reference Bylaw # 2-Appeals Bylaw).**

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 Any resident or employee of the school district may raise objection to learning resources used in a school's educational program despite the fact that the individuals selecting such resources were duly qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure, and observed the criteria for selecting learning resources.
- 4.2 The Principal should review the selection and objection rules with the teaching staff at least annually. The staff should be reminded that the right to object to learning resources is one granted by policies enacted by the Board of Education.
- 4.3 No parent has the right to determine reading, viewing or listening matter for students other than his/her own children.
- 4.4 Though it is the learning resources which are challenged, the principles of the freedom to read/listen/view, consistent with current legislation and the Canadian Charter of Rights, must be defended as well.

- 4.5 Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
- 4.6 The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.
- 4.7 A decision to sustain a challenge shall not necessarily be interpreted as a judgement of irresponsibility on the part of the professionals involved in the original selection and/or use of the material.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LEARNING RESOURCES

(use additional space where necessary)

Title of Resource _____

Context of Usage: Classroom Resource: ____ Correspondence Material: ____

Other: _____

Author(s) _____

Publisher/Year: _____

Request initiated by: _____

Role of Complainant: Teacher ____ Parent ____ Other (please specify) _____

Telephone No.: _____

Address: _____

1. To what in the resource(s) do you object? _____

a) pages _____ Specific Objection: _____

b) pages _____ Specific Objection: _____

c) pages _____ Specific Objection: _____

d) pages _____ Specific Objection: _____

2. What do you think is the theme or purpose of the resource? _____

3. What effect do you believe this resource would have on your son or daughter?

4. What effect do you believe this resource would have on other students? _____

5. Have you reviewed the entire resource? _____

6. In many cases, the impact of a resource will vary according to how it is presented and interpreted in the classroom, and we urge you to discuss this material with the appropriate people. Have you discussed the resource with the:

teacher? _____

school district staff? _____

What was their response? _____

7. Have you read reviews of this resource? Yes ___ No___

Source of reviews? (attached photocopies if available?) _____

If reviews are available, would you like copies? Yes ___ No___

8. Additional Comments: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____