

SCHOOL DISTRICT 82 (COAST MOUNTAINS)

Students and Programs

1300: Instructional Materials

Policy

The responsibility for the final decision regarding the use of learning materials other than those provided under Section 168 of the School Act shall be with the Board of School Trustees. The Board of School Trustees is responsible for providing learning resources that will—

- enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, abilities, backgrounds, and maturity levels;
- stimulate development in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
- enable students to develop the practice of critical analysis and to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
- represent religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our national heritage and to the world community.

Regulations

Selection of Library Learning Resources

1. The primary responsibility for selection of library materials shall rest with librarians. Librarians shall consult with administration, staff, students, and other librarians in the district and in professional organizations.
2. Learning resources for purchase are considered on the following basis:
 - a) Library materials shall be evaluated on artistic and literary quality, accuracy, authority, balance, integrity, presentation, vision, creativity, and appropriateness of style.
 - b) Library materials shall be selected for interest and ability to inform. They shall not be excluded because of the author's race, nationality, or political, religious, or social views.

Selection of Materials on Sensitive and Controversial Matters

1. Materials selected on controversial matters shall be representative of rational perspectives, with representative materials covering differing and contrasting points of view.
2. Materials shall not disparage a particular group, culture, or religion. Materials on religion shall be chosen to explain rather than to convince, and to represent the field as widely as necessary for the school's purposes.
3. Materials on political theories, ideologies, and public issues shall present a balanced collection of views.

Challenged Learning Resources

1. If the learning materials used in a classroom or school are challenged by a parent or a member of the public, the following procedures shall apply:
 - a) The complainant shall meet with the teacher to discuss and to attempt to resolve the problem.
 - b) If the problem has not been resolved, the complainant should meet with the principal.
 - c) If the problem has not been resolved at the school, then the complainant will state his/her objections in writing to the Superintendent of Schools.
 - d) A committee consisting of the Superintendent of Schools, a school principal, the complainant's nominee, and a teacher will examine the learning resource.
 - e) If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision resulting from the meeting in (c), he or she may appeal the decision in accordance with Section 11 of the School Act and Board Policy 5500, Appeal By-law.