



Rationale

Effective July 1, 2016, independent school authorities are required to have policies and procedures on how learning resources are chosen for use in schools. The learning resources requirement is authorized under the authority of the Independent School Act, s 4(1)(b) which states:

On application by an authority, the inspector must issue or renew a certificate classifying in independent school into one or more of the groups set out in the Schedule if the inspector is satisfied that the authority and the independent school meet (b) the educational standards established by the minister, and Section 4 of the Ministerial Order 41/91, the Education Standards Order. The Ministry of Education no longer conducts evaluation processes to recommend Learning resources, leaving the responsibility to the school authority. This policy sets out the procedures that determine how learning resources are chosen, as well as how concerns or challenges will be addressed by the CISKD.

Policy

Legal responsibility for the selection of materials rests with the Board of Directors and the Catholic Independent Schools, Kamloops Diocese.

The Board of Directors delegates to the School Principal the responsibility to approve the selection of learning resources which are supportive and consistent with the goals and objectives of the CISKD, the Curriculum of the Ministry of Education, and the aims and objectives of the individual school.

Procedure

1. Definition of Learning Resources

Learning Resources are texts, videos, software, and instructional materials that teachers use to assist students to meet the expectations for learning defined by the Ministry and CISKD.

This policy is specific to learning resources which form the core program collection of resources.

Learning resources used in the classroom will be evaluated and approved of CISKD with consideration given to curriculum fit, pedagogy, social considerations, age, and developmental appropriateness, as well as the school authority's philosophical, cultural, and religious values of CISKD.

2. Learning Resources Approval Process

CISKD will encourage teachers to utilize education media that have been formally evaluated before being used in the classroom. The evaluation process involves a minimum of two school authority representatives, one of whom is a practicing teacher with at least three years' experience, preferably in grade level and subject area for which the resources are to be used. The recommended scope of professional learning resources for review includes Primary (Gr K-3), Intermediate (Gr 4-6), Middle (Gr 7-9) and Secondary (Gr 10-12).

The evaluation criteria used in determining appropriate learning resources for the school will include, but are not limited to:



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- Supporting the learning standards and outcomes of the curriculum
- Assisting students in making connections between what they learn in school and its practical application in their lives
- Addressing developmental and age appropriateness
- Having effective instructional and technical design
- Meeting the requirements set by copyright and privacy (PIPA) legislation
- Suitability based on the pedagogical, social, philosophical, cultural and/or religious values of CISKD.

Evaluating resources from the perspective of pedagogical, social, philosophical, cultural and/or religious values will:

- encourage understanding and promote positive social attitudes and respect for diversity and individual differences.
- ensure that BC students will see themselves and their life experiences, within a free, pluralistic, and democratic society and evidenced in the learning materials they use in their classroom.
- identify potential controversial or offensive elements that may exist in the content or presentation, and highlight where resources might support positive social attitudes, diversity, and demonstrate tolerance and respect for individual differences.

Resource evaluation will be based on one or more of the following inclusion criteria:

- Catholic beliefs and values
- age
- multiculturalism and diversity
- accessibility
- beliefs and values
- cultural attributes
- socio-economic factors
- humour
- ethical and legal considerations
- language
- course content, skills, and competencies
- respect for individual differences
- violence
- social responsibility
- democratic principles
- service learning
- pedagogical perspectives

3. Authority Approval

The Board of Directors delegates to the School Principal the responsibility to approve the selection of learning resources which are supportive and consistent with the goals and objectives of the CISKD, the Curriculum of the Ministry of Education, and the aims and objectives of the individual school.

4. Withdrawal of a Recommended Learning Resource



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Learning Resources will maintain a recommended status for five years, after which continued status will be subject to, but not limited to, criteria such as curriculum relevance, currency, and availability.

The recommendation of withdrawal will be made by a committee of at least two representatives of CISKD, one being a practicing teacher with at least three years' experience preferably in grade level and subject area for which the resources are used. The recommended scope of professional learning resources review will be Primary (Gr K-3), Intermediate (Gr 4-6), Middle (Gr 7-9) and Secondary (Gr 10-12).

A learning resources withdrawal will be confirmed by a motion passed by the Local School Committee.

5. Challenge to the Use of Authority Recommended Learning Resources

Challenges to the use of authority recommended learning resources must be made in writing to the principal of the school, and/or superintendent identifying the learning resource and stating the reason the resource(s) may not be suitable. (Appendix A) Challenges will only be accepted from individuals in the school community whose children are directly engaged with the learning resource(s), educators who use the resource(s) or Ministry of Education staff.

Within 14 days of written receipt of a learning resource challenge, the Principal will convene a meeting of a committee, consisting of a minimum of three representatives of *the school*, one of whom must be an administrator and another a practicing teacher. The practicing teacher must have at least three years of experience in the grade level(s) and subject area(s) for which the resource is used.

Based on the committee's recommendation, the authority may dismiss the challenge, raise the awareness of the implications of using the resource with the teaching staff, communicate with the publisher and/or withdraw the recommended resource from further use in the school.

The individual issuing the challenge will be notified of the committee's decision in writing within 14 days of the decision.

6. Sources of Learning Resources

The schools of CISKD may use the services of Focused Education Resources to assist them in choosing learning resources. Focused Education Resources, (formerly ERAC, the Educational Resource Acquisition Consortium), is a consortium of BC public school districts and independent schools that work together cooperatively.

REFERENCE

Policy 313 – Challenge to Learning Resources
FISA Learning Resources Policy Template

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