

Challenge of Learning Resource Materials

The Board of Education will establish procedures to enable the challenge of prescribed and supplementary learning resources.

Challenge Criteria

- Any member of the district's educational community may challenge the appropriateness of resources used in the district's educational programs.
- No individual has the right to determine reading, viewing, or listening material for students other than his or her own children.
- Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
- The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

Procedures for Challenges of Learning Resources

- The Ministry of Education is responsible for delisting and withdrawal of provincially prescribed learning resources. Challenges or formal complaints of provincially prescribed learning resources will be considered by the Ministry's Educational Resources Advisory Committee.
- Supplemental Learning Resources – Informal Resolution

Informal Challenge Procedures

- a) The school receiving a complaint regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue informally.
- b) The principal (or designate) shall explain to the questioner the school's selection procedure and criteria and the qualifications of those persons selecting the resources.
- c) The principal (or designate) shall explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the educational program, its intended education usefulness, and additional information regarding its use.
- d) If the challenge is not resolved at the school level and the complainant wishes to file a formal challenge, a copy of this policy and a [Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources](#) form.

Formal Resolution

- All formal challenges to learning resources must be submitted to the school principal (or designate) on the [Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources](#) form.
- The Superintendent of Schools shall be informed of the formal complaint.
- The Superintendent of Schools may render a decision on the challenge or establish a 'reconsideration' committee to consider and make recommendations on the challenge.

Reconsideration Committee Procedures

- When appropriate, members of the committee should include:
 - a) Superintendent (or designate);
 - b) the school principal;
 - c) one member of the school staff;

- d) one teacher-librarian;
- e) one member of the school's parent advisory council;
- f) one student.
- The reconsideration committee may choose to consult district support staff and/or community persons with related professional knowledge.
- The reconsideration committee shall review the challenged resource and judge whether it conforms to the principles of selection outlined in this policy.
- The reconsideration committee shall:
 - a) examine the challenged resource;
 - b) determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews of the resource;
 - c) weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than passages or sections taken out of context;
 - d) discuss the challenged item with the individual complainant when appropriate;
 - e) prepare a written report;
 - f) discuss the written report with the complainant if requested;
 - g) send a copy of the report to the
 - Principal
 - Superintendent of Schools.
- If the Committee's recommendations are unacceptable to either the principal or the complainant, the challenge will be advanced to the Board of School Trustees for decision.
- The Board's decision shall be final.

Date Adopted: November 2001

Definition:

- *Prescribed means the legal status granted to a learning resource that has been evaluated and approved by the Ministry of Education for use in all schools.*
- *Supplementary means educational resource materials that are considered appropriate for individual students or groups of students.*

Cross Reference: [Selection of Supplementary Learning Resource Materials Administrative Procedure #212](#)