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| Section: | Students & Instruction | |
| Title: | Challenge of Learning Resource Materials | 4.1.2 |

Purpose

This procedure outlines the process for challenging the prescribed and supplementary learning resources.

General Guidelines - Challenge Criteria

1. Any member of the district’s educational community may challenge the appropriateness of resources used in the district’s educational programs.
2. No individual has the right to determine reading, viewing, or listening material for students other than for their own children. Notwithstanding this, personal values alone are not a sufficient reason to challenge a learning resource.
3. The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

Definitions:

Learning Resources means information which is represented, accessible, or stored in a variety of media and formats, which assists student learning as defined by the learning standards of the provincial curriculum.

Procedures for Challenges of Learning Resources

Boards of Education are responsible for the selection and withdrawal of learning resources. The Mission Public School District will consider challenges or formal appeals regarding learning resources in accordance with the following procedure:

A. First Appeal - School Level

1. The questioner sets up an appointment to meet with the staff member and a school administrator to discuss the learning resource at a mutually agreeable time. The staff member may decide to invite an additional educator to the meeting.
2. The staff member(s) explain the learning resource selection procedure to the questioner including the district selection criterion that is applied to all learning resources.
3. The staff and questioner will attempt to resolve the challenge.
4. If the challenge is not resolved at the school level the questioner may file a district-level challenge by completing the **Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources Form** and follow the district-level procedures (below).

B. Second Appeal - District Level

1. All district-level challenges to learning resources must be submitted to the school principal (or designate) who will then forward the **Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources Form** to the Superintendent.
2. The Superintendent of Schools may render a decision on the challenge or establish a 'reconsideration' committee to consider and make recommendations on the challenge.
3. Reconsideration Committee Procedures (at the discretion of the Superintendent):
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 district-level educator.
4. The reconsideration committee may choose to consult additional district educators and/or community persons with related professional knowledge.
5. The reconsideration committee shall review the challenged resource and judge whether it conforms to the principles of selection outlined in this policy.
6. The reconsideration committee shall:
 - a) review the challenged resource in its entirety;
 - b) consider the written submission of the questioner;
 - c) determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews of the resource;
 - d) weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than passages or sections taken out of context;
 - e) prepare a written report that includes:
 - i) the procedures followed;
 - ii) the minutes of the meeting;
 - iii) the rationale for the decision made by the reconsideration committee;
 - f) send a copy of the report to the
-questioner
-all appropriate principals.

C. Third and Final Appeal - Board of Education level

1. If the Superintendent or Reconsideration Committee's recommendations are unacceptable to either the principal or the questioner, the challenge and all documentation will be submitted to the Board of Education for reconsideration.
2. The decision of the Board is final.
3. Affected parties will be advised as appropriate.

Date Adopted: November 2001 (AP 204)

Date Amended: September 2019

*Cross Reference: [Selection of Learning Resource Materials Procedure 4.1.1](#)
[Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources Form](#)*