

CHALLENGED LEARNING RESOURCES

Background

In some instances an employee, parent, student, or other community member may have concerns about a learning resource that has been made available to students. Accordingly, opportunity shall be provided for the use of a particular learning resource to be challenged.

The Superintendent is responsible to develop a procedure for receiving a challenge to a particular learning resource and for reviewing the appropriateness of challenged learning resources.

Procedures

1. Approval Categories

Approval procedures for each field trip are categorized according to the duration, destination and/or cost of the trip, as per the following:

1.1 Category 1: Field trips that are within the province of Alberta, and are a maximum of four (4) days in length, and involve a cost per student of less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The Principal is authorized to approve field trips in this category provided that:

1.1.1 A written application is submitted to the Principal at least two (2) weeks prior to the anticipated departure date. It is acknowledged, however, that there may be a need for exceptions to this deadline, depending upon the circumstances. Such an application shall contain detailed information about the following:

1.1.1.1 Purpose;

1.1.1.2 Destination;

1.1.1.3 Educational value and curriculum relevance;

1.1.1.4 Number of students;

1.1.1.5 Itinerary;

2. Guiding Principles

2.1 The Principal is to review the selection and challenge procedures with the teaching staff annually. The staff are to be reminded that the right to challenge learning resources is one granted by this Administrative Procedure.

- 2.2 An employee, parent, student, or adult resident of the 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.
 - 2.3 Although specific learning resources may be challenged, the principles of the freedom to read, view, or listen must be adhered to.
 - 2.4 Access to challenged learning resources shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
3. Request for informal consideration:
- 3.1 The Principal receiving a challenge to a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue informally.
 - 3.1.1 The Principal and other appropriate staff shall explain the school's selection criteria and procedure, the intended use of the challenged resource in the educational process, and the qualifications of those persons selecting the resource.
 - 3.1.2 The Principal and other appropriate staff may decide the resource is inappropriate and may withdraw it from general circulation or may decide to reinstate the challenged resource.
 - 3.1.3 If the issue is resolved, a brief report to the Superintendent shall be filed for information.
 - 3.1.4 If the issue is not resolved, then either the challenger or the professional staff, may wish to request a review by the Superintendent.
4. Request for formal consideration:
- 4.1 A formal letter or form shall be forwarded to the Superintendent.
 - 4.2 If the Superintendent does not resolve the challenge to the satisfaction of the challenger, an advisory group shall be convened to consider the challenge.
 - 4.2.1 The advisory group shall consist of members mutually acceptable to the challenger and the Superintendent.
 - 4.2.2 The advisory group may make any recommendations it deems fit.
 - 4.3 If the recommendations of the advisory group are not acceptable to the challenger or to those opposed to the challenge, the Superintendent's decision will be final.

Approved: June 14, 2018

Reference: Section 16.2, 18, 20, 39, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12