

## **POLICY #8800 LEARNING RESOURCES**

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The Surrey Board of Education is committed to providing a wide range of learning resources to meet the educational needs of students. It is expected that learning resources are chosen according to commonly accepted criteria regarding form, content, and instructional value.

Learning resources include the following:

1. Provincially recommended learning resources
2. Locally approved learning resources
3. Library materials

The board believes that the prime responsibility for the selection of learning resources belongs to educators because they have professional expertise to assess the merits of a given resource.

The board also recognizes that various stakeholders within the school district community have an interest in the quality of learning resources available to students. Opportunities to challenge decisions made by staff should be provided. It is expected that such challenges will result in thoughtful reviews of the resources in question and serve to satisfy the board's intent to provide broad consultative procedures.

The selection and use of some learning resources may involve sensitive issues or topics that may solicit conflicting value positions within the school district community. Examples of sensitive issues include but are not limited to:

- Religious beliefs
- Relationships
- Human sexuality
- Cultural and family values
- Substance misuse
- Child abuse

The board is committed to providing direction in such circumstances by adhering to the following principles:

1. Learning resources should be many and varied but must meet Ministry and/or local criteria for selection.
2. The challenge of a learning resource will result in a thoughtful review of the resource through a consultative process involving other professionals and parents.

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3. Where a learning resource is proposed for approval and does not meet criteria, it will not be used.

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