



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School District No. 57**  
2100 Ferry Avenue  
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R5  
(250) 561-6800

# POLICY 6144.1

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## CONTROVERSIAL LEARNING RESOURCES

APPROVED: 1979.05.15

REVISED: 1984.06.19  
2001.05.15

### ***POLICY***

Any resident of the school district may challenge the appropriateness of learning resources used in the district's educational program.

### ***DEFINITIONS:***

"**Learning resource**" is information, represented or stored in a variety of media and formats, which assists student learning as defined by provincial or local curricula.

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Responsibility Centre: Director of School Services  
References: *School Act*, Section 85  
Bylaw No. 4

CONTROVERSIAL LEARNING RESOURCES**PREAMBLE**

The Ministry of Education, through the K-12 Education Plan, has moved to a multiple-resource approach to facilitate curricula delivery in schools. Some resources are approved through the Ministry's approval process; some are locally approved.

While teachers and administrators are encouraged to be thorough in their selection and use of various resources, some resources are seen to be "inappropriate" by individuals. It has been the practice of the Board to allow individuals with concerns to challenge any resource used in district classrooms. This policy enables such challenges and mandates a process that is deemed to be thorough and just.

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Approved: 2001.05.15



CONTROVERSIAL LEARNING RESOURCES**REGULATIONS:**

1. A school receiving a challenge regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue internally.
  - 1.1 The principal or other appropriate staff shall explain to the challenger the school's selection procedure, the criteria used and the qualifications of those persons selecting the resource.
  - 1.2 The principal or other appropriate staff shall explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the educational program, its intended educational usefulness and additional information regarding its use.
2. If the challenger wishes to file a further complaint, a copy of this policy and a "Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources" form shall be provided to him or her by the principal.
  - 2.1 All formal objections to learning resources must be made on a "Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources" form (see Appendix) signed by the challenger and filed with the principal.
  - 2.2 The principal shall forward one copy of the "Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources" form (see Appendix) to the Superintendent of Schools.
  - 2.3 The Superintendent of Schools may, at his or her discretion, establish a reconsideration committee to re-evaluate the resource and to prepare a report with recommendations. The committee shall consist of a minimum of five members and shall include representation from the following groups: district staff, teaching staff, administrative officers, parents and, when appropriate, students.
  - 2.4 If the Superintendent of Schools decides against the establishment of a reconsideration committee, the challenger may make a written appeal to the Board of Education.
  - 2.5 The Superintendent of Schools shall review the reconsideration committee's report, consider the recommendations and advise the challenger and the school principal of his/her decision.
  - 2.6 Written reports, once filed, are confidential, but are available for examination upon request.
  - 2.7 The challenger and the school principal shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Education for a final review as per Bylaw No. 4.

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Approved: 1979.05.15  
 Revised: 1984.06.19, 2001.05.15



CONTROVERSIAL LEARNING RESOURCES**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:**

1. The person requesting reconsideration shall complete and sign two copies of the "Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources" form (Appendix) and forward it to the school principal.
2. The school principal shall forward one copy of the "Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources" form (see Appendix) to the Superintendent of Schools.
3. The Superintendent of Schools may establish a reconsideration committee to re-evaluate the learning resource, as per Regulation 2.3.
4. A reconsideration committee shall proceed in accordance with the following guidelines:
  - 4.1 Examine the challenged resource.
  - 4.2 Determine professional acceptance by reading a critical review of the resource, when available.
  - 4.3 Weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole, rather than on passages or selections taken out of context.
  - 4.4 Discuss the challenged resource in the context of the educational program.
  - 4.5 Prepare a written report and file it with the Superintendent of Schools, who will review and respond as per Regulation 2.5.
5. Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.

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Approved: 1979.05.15  
Revised: 2001.05.15



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**REQUEST FOR RE-CONSIDERATION OF LEARNING RESOURCES**

Initiated by \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Age or grade of student(s) using the challenged material \_\_\_\_\_

Representing:

Self \_\_\_\_\_ Group (give name) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (give name) \_\_\_\_\_

RESOURCE

Book: Author \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright date \_\_\_\_\_

Hardcover \_\_\_\_\_ Paperback \_\_\_\_\_

Non-book: Type of resource \_\_\_\_\_  
(magazine, film, record, video, computer software, etc.)

Title/name \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher or Producer (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please respond to the following questions. If sufficient space is not provided, feel free to use additional sheets of paper.*

1. Did you review the entire item? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, which sections did you review?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



CONTROVERSIAL LEARNING RESOURCES

2. To what do you object? Please be specific.

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3. What do you believe is the main idea or purpose of this material?

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4. What do you feel might be the result of a student using this material?

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5. Is there anything good about this material?

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6. Are you aware of the judgment of this material by professional critics?

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7. In your opinion, for what age group would this material be more appropriate?

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8. In the place of this material, would you care to recommend other material that you consider to convey a similar perspective of society and set of values?

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9. Do you wish to make any other comments about this resource?

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to the school principal.*

Last revised: 2001.05.15

