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### **Rationale**

The treatment in school programs of such matters as Canadian content, family life education, and stereotyping can lead to representations from interest groups. Guidelines and procedures are required regarding the identification and treatment of controversial issues and materials in the classroom.

The Board of Directors believes that students should have classroom experience in selecting and organizing information that facilitates drawing intelligent, rational conclusions on a variety of issues, some of which may be controversial.

### **Definitions**

#### Learning Resource

Learning Resources are texts, videos, software, and instructional materials that teachers use to assist students to meet the expectations for learning defined by provincial and local curricula.

#### Program

A program is a series of lessons and academic content taught in a classroom and/or throughout the school.

### **Policy**

In dealing with controversial issues and topics, teachers are expected to consult with the Principal regarding the issues to be covered, the materials to be used and the approach to instruction in the classroom. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Principal to deem whether the material is appropriate to use and to communicate with the parents if required.

### **Regulation**

1. For sound judgments to be made, information regarding controversial issues should:
  - 1.1 Represent alternative points of view;
  - 1.2 Appropriately reflect the maturity, capabilities and educational needs of the students;
  - 1.3 Reflect the requirements of the course as stated in the approved Board Authority Approved curriculum;
  - 1.4 Reflect the requirements of the course as stated in the approved BC Ministry of Education curriculum;



- 1.5 Reflect the neighbourhood and community in which the school is located, but not to the exclusion of provincial, national, and international contexts.
2. Parents may request, in writing, the exclusion of their child(ren) from formal instruction or activities dealing with a particular controversial issue.
3. Parents have the right to formally challenge the use of a particular instructional resource. In the event of a parental challenge to the use of a particular learning resource, the parent shall be referred to Policies 609 and 611.
4. When offering programs that are controversial in nature the Principal is responsible for:
  - 4.1 Reviewing programs content and materials to ensure conformity to Board policy;
  - 4.2 Communicating to parents the nature of the program and holding a parent meeting to review program content and materials, respond to parental concerns and inform parents of their right to exclude their children from certain program elements;
  - 4.3 Ensure that staff is adequately in-serviced to ensure effective program delivery; and
  - 4.4 Ensuring that alternative learning activities are provided for excluded students;

Reference:	Approved
	Date Approved: December 1994
Cross-reference: Policies: 609 - Selection Of Learning Resources 611- Challenge To Learning Resources	Date(s) Revised: October 2006, June 6, 2017