

# Core Program Learning Resources Policy

## Definition of Learning Resources and Core Program Learning Resources

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.

This policy is specific to learning resources which form the core program collection of resources. Within the context of an emergent inquiry-based learning environment, core program learning resources include those resources that are **required** learning material for any group of students to address a significant portion of provincial or local curriculum standards for a course.\*

Core program learning resources will be evaluated and approved by Oak and Orca with consideration given to curriculum fit, pedagogy, social considerations, age and developmental appropriateness, as well as the philosophical and cultural values of the Bioregional Education Association.

\*note: the vast majority of learning resources used do not fit into the category of core program learning resources since philosophically Oak and Orca does not require specific learning material in favour of emergent and individualized learning.

## Core Program Learning Resources Evaluation Process

The evaluation process involves a minimum of two school authority representatives, one of whom is a practicing teacher with experience in the grade level(s) and subject area(s) for which the resource is used. The recommended scope of professional learning resources for review include Primary (Gr K-3), Intermediate (Gr 4-6), Middle (Gr 7-9) and Secondary (Gr 10-12).

The evaluation criteria used in determining appropriate learning resources for the school will include, but are not limited to:

- supporting the learning standards and outcomes of the curriculum,
- assisting students in making connections between what they learn in school and its practical application in their lives,
- addressing developmental and age appropriateness,
- having effective instructional and technical design,
- meeting the requirements set by copyright and privacy (PIPA) legislation, and
- suitability based on the pedagogical, social, philosophical, or cultural values of Oak and Orca.

All core program collection resources will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Credibility of sources
- Values of the school
- Violent content
- Age-appropriateness
- Quality of writing
- Pedagogical approach
- Qualifications of the author
- Ethical and legal considerations
- Diversity and inclusivity

Students will proactively be exposed to alternative and potentially controversial ideas, knowledge and sources of information as material for critical thinking and personal growth.

The committee may use the services of the Education Resource Acquisition Consortium (ERAC) to assist them in choosing or approving learning resources.

### **Authority Approval of Core Program Learning Resources**

The Board of Directors will approve resources based on the recommendations of the lead teacher. The lead teacher may strike a committee of staff to create or review resource lists from time to time which will then be recommended for approval. Resource lists will be reviewed once a year for currency.

### **Challenge to the Use of Core Program Learning Resources**

Challenges to the use of authority approved core program learning resources must be made in writing to the lead teacher identifying the learning resource and stating the reason why the resource(s) may not be suitable. Challenges will only be accepted from individuals in the school community whose children are directly engaged with the learning resource(s), educators who use the resource(s) or Ministry of Education staff.

Upon receipt of a learning resource challenge, the lead teacher will convene a meeting of a committee, consisting of a minimum of three representatives of Oak and Orca, one of whom must be an administrator and another a practicing teacher with experience in the grade level(s) and subject area(s) for which the resource is used.

Based on the committee's recommendation, the authority may dismiss the challenge, raise the awareness of the implications of using the resource with the teaching staff, communicate with the publisher and/or withdraw the recommended resource from further use in the school.

The individual issuing the challenge will be notified of the committee's decision in writing.