

LITERARY MATERIALS SELECTION

Background

The Peace River School Division (PRSD) upholds the significant academic importance of school libraries, including the importance of access to classic literary works.

Furthermore, the Division maintains that access to developmentally appropriate materials positively impacts student mental health and well-being. As a school authority, the Division holds the responsibility to provide its students with a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and nurtures a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self. Accordingly, the Division wishes to support the selection, availability, and access to school literary materials that promote children's and students' well-being and learning opportunities.

For the selection, availability and access of school literary materials, the Division shall ensure compliance with the Ministerial Order 034/2025.

Definitions

School Literary Materials: any materials, including books, textbooks, magazines, comics, graphic novels or other literary or graphic materials, whether in physical or electronic form, that are accessible or available to children or students at a Division school.

Classroom Collection: a teacher's collection of literary materials, including books, magazines, comics, graphic novels or other literary or graphic materials, whether in physical or electronic form, that are selected, curated or managed by the teacher for use by or available to children or students in the teacher's classroom.

Sexual Act: an activity or action of a distinctly sexual nature.

Visual Depiction: a visual or graphic representation, such as a drawing, illustration, painting, photographic or digital image, or a video file.

Ministerial Approval

Learning and teaching resources dealing primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality require the approval of the Minister.

1. Compliance Standards

- 1.1 School Literary Materials containing any explicit visual depiction of a sexual act shall not be accessible or available to children or students, and no such materials shall be selected for inclusion in a school literary collection.
 - 1.1.2 Standard 1.1 does not apply if the materials are included in technical materials, dictionaries, or encyclopedias that are not narrative in nature.
- 1.2 The Division shall, on request by the Minister, provide to the Minister any information and reports on School Literary Materials.

2. Resource Acquisition

2.1 Objectives of Selection:

- 2.1.1 To provide learning materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, socioeconomic background, and maturity levels of the students served;
- 2.1.2 To provide learning materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
- 2.1.3 To provide as wide a variety of learning materials as possible to enable students to develop the practice of critical analysis and make intelligent judgments in their daily lives; and
- 2.1.4 To provide learning materials representative of many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our national heritage and to the world community.

2.2 General Acquisition Guidelines:

- 2.2.1 Ensure the collection of fiction, nonfiction, and reference materials fall within the Alberta Education Learning Commons Policy and Guidelines and support the student learning objectives of the Alberta Curriculum;
- 2.2.2 Ensure the Division and/or the individual school staff prioritizes needs based on knowledge of the curriculum and the existing collection;
- 2.2.3 Ensure the selection is consistent with the Education Act and Board Policies and Administrative Procedures;
- 2.2.4 Ensure reputable, professionally prepared aids are used for selection; and
- 2.2.5 Ensure that gift materials are accepted or rejected based on the criteria outlined in Section 3 of this AP (Criteria of Learning Resources).

3. Criteria of Learning Resources

- 3.1 Ensure compliance with Ministerial Order #034/2025.
- 3.2 Ensure alignment with the Alberta curriculum and support the intended learning outcomes for the grade level.
- 3.3 Ensure appropriateness for subject areas and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social development of students.
- 3.4 Ensure the information is current and relevant (timeliness), or if the resource is a classic that retains enduring value.
- 3.5 Ensure the learning resources are evaluated for literary merit, artistic quality (for visual materials), clarity, and organizational structure.
- 3.6 Ensure the content is accurate, factual, and based on sound scholarship or reliable sources, ensuring credibility and established expertise of the individual creators.
- 3.7 Ensure the format of the physical or digital medium (e.g., book, video, website) provides for durability, usability, and accessibility.
- 3.8 Ensure resources incorporate values of good citizenship and respect for different languages and cultures, including accurate portrayals of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

4. Collection Management and Communication

The Principal, or designate, in cooperation with teaching and learning commons staff, shall annually assess the school's existing learning commons collection to:

- 4.1 Ensure ongoing compliance with Ministerial Order #034/2025 and all selection criteria in Section 3 of the Order;
- 4.2 Ensure that there are sufficient materials to support each curricular area, especially core areas, and to support new or revised curricula;
- 4.3 Ensure the physical and digital resources are available to support diverse learning needs;
- 4.4 Ensure accuracy, currency, and age appropriateness for the intended audience;
- 4.5 Ensure that items that no longer meet selection criteria or are in poor physical condition are removed from the collection;
- 4.6 Ensure a database of School Literary Materials is established and maintained that provides a publicly available listing of all School Literary Materials other than those contained in a Classroom Collection; and
- 4.7 Ensure that teachers with a Classroom Collection of literary materials:
 - 4.7.1 establish and maintain a listing of all materials that, upon request, will be made available to parents/guardians of students in their classroom, or
 - 4.7.2 provide physical access to the materials through facilitation of classroom visitations for inquiring parents/guardians.

Adopted/Revised/Reviewed: JAN 2026

Reference: *Education Act*
Ministerial Order 034/2025
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12