

AUTHORIZED LEARNING RESOURCES

Background

Pursuant to section 18(1) of the *Education Act*, the minister may authorize learning and teaching resources for use in schools.

Learning and teaching resources are those print and digital resources used by students and/or teachers to facilitate learning and teaching. Learning and teaching resources are available on [LearnAlberta.ca](https://www.learnalberta.ca) and [new.LearnAlberta.ca](https://new.learnalberta.ca).

The Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services and principals are responsible for the administration of this administrative procedure.

Definition

Authorized Learning Resources are resources that meet Alberta Education's evaluation. The use of authorized resources is not mandatory for program delivery. The authorized resources criteria as outlined in the Education Act include:

- curriculum congruency
- instructional and technical design
- Canadian content
- First Nation, Metis, and Inuit perspectives

"Child" means a child younger than 6 years of age who is enrolled in an early childhood services program and therefore does not fall within the definition of "student" in the Education Act;

Classroom collection means 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;

School authority means any Alberta public or separate school board, francophone regional authority, operator of a charter school, person responsible for the operation of an independent school, or independent ECS operator as defined in the Early Childhood Services Regulation (AR 126/2022);

School literary materials means any materials, including books, 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 school;

Sexual act means an activity or action of a distinctly sexual nature

Visual depiction means a visual or graphic representation, such as a drawing or painting, an illustration, a photographic or digital image or a video file”(Ab. Education, 2025);

Procedures

1. Under section 53(2)(b) of the *Education Act*, a school board may develop or acquire instructional materials for use in programs or in schools, subject to section 18. In developing/acquiring instructional materials, the school board should also take into account such criteria as curriculum congruency; instructional and technical design; preference for Canadian content; and inclusion of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Perspectives throughout Curriculum.
2. Alberta Education does not prescribe any one method of teaching over another. Teachers use their professional judgement and knowledge to select the most appropriate methods of teaching that best meet the needs of their students. However, the [Teaching Quality Standard](#) describes expectations for teachers who work directly with students.
3. The ministry authorizes student and teacher resources to assist teachers in identifying instructional materials to support student learning. The use of authorized resources is not mandatory.
4. Student and teacher resources may include print and digital formats used in a variety of settings and delivery modes to facilitate the implementation of provincial courses and programs of study/curriculum, and educational initiatives.
5. Where Alberta Education has authorized Resources for a program, learning resource selection is the responsibility of the Principal, in consultation with the teaching staff.
6. Where the province implements new curriculum and mandates the purchase of new learning resources, it is the Principal’s responsibility to ensure that these resources are in place and within the constraints of the school budget. The costs of these resources will be subsidized by the Division as a part of the school’s mini-budget.
7. Supplementary Resources
 - 7.1 Intellectual inquiry requires learning resources representing a wide range of interests so that students may freely explore the world of ideas. The Division respects the right and responsibility of teachers to use supplementary learning resources and to support prescribed curricula to meet the educational needs of students. In the selection of resources, the Division expects sound professional judgment and consultation with others, including parents and other professional colleagues when deemed appropriate.
 - 7.2 Supplementary learning resources in a school’s collection are to:
 - 7.2.1 Enrich and support the Program of Studies in a way that caters to the varied interests, abilities, maturity levels and learning styles of students.
 - 7.2.2 Provide variety for students as they seek to gain understanding of curricular outcomes.
 - 7.2.3 Cause students to critically examine the information in the resources in support of curriculum in order to encourage learning that transfers, reason

- logically, examine different points of view and through these processes develop skills associated with arriving at sound student judgments.
- 7.2.4 Represent a diversity of worldviews and perspectives.
- 7.3 Selection of Supplementary Resources will include:
- 7.3.1 Age appropriateness.
 - 7.3.2 Link and support to curricular outcomes.
 - 7.3.3 Enrichment of learning that transfers.
 - 7.3.4 Readability and popular appeal.
 - 7.3.5 The academic credibility of the author/producer.
 - 7.3.6 The literary merit of the work.
 - 7.3.7 Compliance with [“Ministerial Order \(#034/2025\): Standards for the Selection, Availability, and Access of School Literary Materials.”](#)
 - 7.3.7.1 “The school authority must ensure that school literary materials containing any explicit visual depiction of a sexual act are not accessible or available to children or students in a school, and must ensure that no such school literary materials are selected for inclusion in a school library, unless such materials are for information or reference, such as technical materials, dictionaries or encyclopedias, that are not narrative in nature”(Ab. Ed, 2025);

Reference: Relevant Legislation & Guidelines