

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

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 should 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.

Reference: Relevant Legislation & Guidelines