



POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
Report No. 25-009

13 February 2025

PROPOSED MERGER OF LEARNING RESOURCES POLICIES

**Key Contact: Reg Lavergne, Superintendent of Program Services,
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PURPOSE:

1. To seek input on the new merger of Policy P 030 CUR Learning Media Requiring Approval and Policy P 031 CUR Learning Resources.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2. As part of the scheduled policy review, staff assessed whether any related policies could be consolidated to streamline and simplify content for both end users and the public. The proposed amalgamation of the two attached policies aligns with the District's policy review and development process. It supports the principles of "good governance" and "responsible resource use," as outlined in the 2023-2027 Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Strategic Plan.

CONTEXT:

3. The review of Policy P 030 CUR Learning Media Requiring Approval and Policy P 031 CUR Learning Resources revealed substantial overlap in their content. Staff believe that maintaining both policies would be redundant and an inefficient use of Board resources. Merging them would streamline the content, making the policies more accessible and user-friendly for staff and the public. To date, there have been no updates to regulations or significant changes in practice relevant to this proposed policy, and as such, the new policy does not propose any major changes to the existing content.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. Key Revisions
After compiling the content of P 030 CUR and P 031 CUR and implementing the new policy template, the following minor changes were proposed:

How has P 030 CUR changed?	
Section	Change
Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change from <i>Learning Media Requiring Approval</i> to <i>Learning Resources</i>
1.0 RATIONALE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Changed from 1.0 OBJECTIVE ● Rationale updated to add “classroom” to “learning resources” ● Added alignment with principles of the Ontario Human Rights Code
2.0 DEFINITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New section; definitions from P 031 CUR have been added as Appendix A
3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New section (previously section 3.0 POLICY of P 031 CUR) ● Adding “classroom” to “learning resources” ● Adding a requirement to include counter-narratives of problematic resources selected to facilitate critical thinking of biases ● Removing subjective terms, such as “sensitivity and good judgment,” and replacing them with directives using equity lens; e.g. lived experiences ● Removed requirement for resources to be consistent with current scholarship/knowledge
4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Content formerly in section 2.0 POLICY ● Section 4.3 on the procedures for when a learning resource is challenged was added from P 031 CUR ● Consistent use of “District” vs. “Board” ● Clarity in directive 4.1 that approved resources should meet the District’s privacy and security requirements ● Removing the right to appeal to the Board of Trustees as it is not mandated by legislation or the Ministry of Education. A jurisdictional scan revealed that school boards in Ontario adopt different processes for challenging learning resources which typically end with the Director of Education’s decision or a committee at the system level, except for Toronto and Peel District School Boards where an appeal to the Board is provided

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5. There are no financial or resource implications relating to the proposed amalgamation of the two policies.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

6. As a Tier 2 Policy Review, the proposed amalgamated draft policy (Appendix A) will be posted to Engage OCDSB from 13 February to 14 March 2025. The revised policy is scheduled to return to the Policy Committee in April for approval and be presented to the 29 April Board meeting for final approval.
7. The review and revision of this policy was a collaborative process involving contributions from Program Services, Governance Services, Equity, system principals, and school librarians.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Has the proposed policy addressed any updated and associated practices and policies of the District?
- Do the proposed revisions fairly address all equity considerations of this policy?
- What are the implications of removing the right to appeal to the Board of Trustees?

Reg Lavergne
Superintendent of Program Services

Pino Buffone
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

Appendices

Appendix A: Proposed Merger

Appendix B: Standing Policy P 030 CUR Learning Media Requiring Approval

Appendix C: Standing Policy P 031 CUR Learning Resources