



**POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**Report No. 25-012**

**10 April 2025**

**APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED MERGER OF LEARNING  
RESOURCES POLICIES**

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

1. To seek approval of the proposed 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 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

In addition to the revisions highlighted in [Report 25-009](#), the following has been revised in response to the feedback received from trustees and the public.

<b>How has P 030 CUR changed after consultations?</b>		
<b>Section</b>	<b>Feedback</b>	<b>Change</b>
Throughout the policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify whether policy refers to all resources in school or just classroom learning resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adding “Classroom” to Learning Resources to clarify the scope of the policy.</li> </ul>
3.0 Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern about the overuse of videos</li> <li>Consider the accessibility of resources</li> <li>Reinstate criteria that learning resources should be consistent with current scholarship and knowledge</li> <li>Consider Indigenous ways of learning and knowing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 (a) - Introduced stronger language ensuring learning resources are selected to align with curriculum and learning expectations</li> <li>3.1 (d) - Added language to ensure learning resources comply with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) regulations and are accessible to all learners</li> <li>3.1 (e) - Reinstated the criteria that learning resources should be consistent with current scholarship and knowledge</li> <li>3.1 (g) - Added that learning resources should consider Indigenous perspectives</li> <li>3.1 (i) - Removed “critical thinking” as it is already a criterion in 3.1 (f)</li> </ul>
4.0 Specific Directives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions around what resources require approval and who would approve the resources</li> <li>Concern regarding the term “counter-narratives”</li> <li>Concerns about removing the right to appeal to the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 - Language added to explicitly direct educators to consult the Ministry’s Trillium List as the first resort for choosing classroom learning resources</li> <li>4.2 - Removed the</li> </ul>

	Board of Trustees	<p>requirement for the District to approve all textbooks and/or classroom learning resources that a school wishes to introduce. Rather, a new 4.3 is added to encourage consultation with partners, where appropriate, and limit the District's approval strictly to textbooks. Future revisions to the procedure will detail the process to be followed for selecting classroom learning resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 4.4 - Removed from Guiding Principles and added as a specific directive. Retained the “and” to ensure that all criteria are considered.</li> <li>● 4.4 (b) - “Counter narratives” replaced with “alternate narratives”</li> <li>● 4.5 - Section added to ensure that selected learning resources are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain in compliance with the guiding principles and in alignment with the latest curriculum</li> <li>● 4.6 - The right to appeal the use of a selected learning resource remains, with final reconsideration at the system level with the Director of Education or designate as part of a formal committee to ensure a fair and equitable process. Revisions to the procedure (in progress) will incorporate further details on this process. In addition,</li> </ul>
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		complaints or expressions of concern can be addressed through the P.129.GOV Complaints Resolution Policy.
Appendix A: Policy Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify which resources are included within the policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided more comprehensive definitions of classroom learning resources (i.e., textbooks and supplementary materials) and their purpose/link to curricular expectations</li> </ul>

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

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

## COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

- In addition to the feedback received during the Policy Review Committee meeting of 13 February 2025, the proposed merger was posted to Engage OCDSB from 13 February to 14 March 2025. A total of 11 submissions were made with the following themes:
  - Concern around the use of YouTube for kindergartners;
  - Concern around the removal of appeals to trustees; and
  - Questions around the approvals required for resources not listed in Trillium.

Given the procedural nature of the feedback above, revisions to the procedures will be informed by Engage submissions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the proposed merger of Policies P 030 CUR and P 031 CUR, attached as Appendix A to Report 25-012, be approved.

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Reg Lavergne  
Superintendent of Program Services

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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