

**1. Rationale**

- 1.1 The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) believes that:
- 1.1.1 all students have the right to learning media that promotes critical and creative thinking, curiosity, open communication, diversity of thought and expression, and that is representative of a diverse national and global society;
  - 1.1.2 students are exposed to a wide range of high-quality learning media in a variety of formats, including both print and electronic, to meet students' various needs and learning styles; and,
  - 1.1.3 learning materials in schools should reflect the diversity of learners, communities, and society, consistent with *Equity and Inclusive Education in Ontario Schools, Guidelines for Policy Development and Implementation (2014)* and the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.

**2. Policy**

It is the policy of the SCDSB that staff purposefully, under the supervision of the school principal or designate, select learning media that is aligned with the Ontario curriculum or the Kindergarten program and takes into consideration a wide range of interests, ages, abilities, and social and emotional maturity levels of students, as well as reflect the diversity of learners, communities, and society.

**3. Definitions**

- 3.1 Learning media – includes all learning materials and resources used by educators and students. This includes forms of traditional print media and non-print media, including a variety of audio-visual and digital materials.
- 3.2 Textbook – a comprehensive learning resource that is in print or electronic form, or that consists of any combination of print, electronic, and non-print materials collectively designed to support a substantial portion of the Ontario curriculum expectations for a specific grade and subject in elementary school or for a course in secondary school. Such resources are intended for use by an entire class or group of students.
- 3.3 Supplementary resources – resources that support only a limited number of curriculum expectations, or the curriculum expectations in a single strand, outlined in the curriculum policy document for a specific course or subject, or a limited number of the overall expectations in the Kindergarten program. Such resources are intended for use by an entire class or group of students.
- 3.4 [Trillium List](#) – contains the titles of those textbooks approved by the Minister of Education for use in Ontario schools.

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#### 4. Guidelines

- 4.1 The Ministry of Education [Guidelines for Approval of Textbooks \(2008\)](#) establishes criteria to be used in the selection and approval of learning materials.
- 4.2 Schools must consult the Trillium List when selecting textbooks.
- 4.3 The general criteria outlined below will apply to the selection, reconsideration, and approval of both textbooks (when the Trillium List does not provide an approved resource) and supplementary resources. Not all the criteria, however, can be met by every learning resource.
  - 4.3.1 appropriateness to course, subject, or program;
  - 4.3.2 suitability for students;
  - 4.3.3 content and format, including:
    - 4.3.3.1 amount of Canadian and Indigenous content;
    - 4.3.3.2 the nature and degree of bias; and,
    - 4.3.3.3 the degree to which the content is representative of a diverse global society.
  - 4.3.4 instructional design;
  - 4.3.5 cost and durability; and,
  - 4.3.6 date of publication.
- 4.4 The selection and approval of the learning media will also take into account the range of technological innovations and tools that support learning and teaching across all curricular areas to ensure students acquire digital literacy skills.
- 4.5 The selection of digital learning media will follow APM A1350 – Information and Computing Technology and Internet Appropriate Use Guidelines for Employees and APM A1063 – Use of Copyright-protected Work for Education.
- 4.6 All students enrolled in a day school operated by the SCDSB shall be provided with access to school-selected learning media, as required.

#### 5. Administrative procedures

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

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