
LIBRARIES/LEARNING COMMONS

Background

The District believes that the learner is entitled to access multiple learning resources which address individual interests, abilities and learning styles. The school library/learning commons provides a variety of print, non-print, electronic and multimedia information sources.

The Teacher-Librarian assists learners to access, process and evaluate information from diverse sources. To this end the teacher-librarian plans cooperatively with teachers, administrators, and support staff.

The District will endeavour to provide learners with school libraries/learning commons which offer excellent programs, superior resources, current technology, and trained personnel.

Procedures

1. Personnel

- 1.1 Staff library services and clerical support will be available in all schools. In addition, volunteers from the school and community provide a valuable service and are welcomed.

2. Scheduling

- 2.1 The school library/learning commons centre is to be flexibly scheduled to be accessible to students and teachers throughout the day. Booking will be based on need and on supporting cooperatively planned curriculum units that have been developed by the teacher-librarian and classroom teachers.

3. Resources

- 3.1 To provide students with opportunities to develop research strategies and information processing skills, they are to have access to a wide range of learning resources and information technology.
- 3.2 Individual learning resources (non-textbook material) which are to be available to the entire school body are, where possible, to be accessible through the school library/learning commons centre and be of sufficient quantity, currency, and scope to support individual needs of the learners. Information technology is to be current and reflect and expand upon that which would be used in business and in the community.



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4. School Library/Learning Commons Facilities

- 4.1 The school library/learning commons centre is to be of a size to provide functional and flexible space for a number of student activities including full class instruction, small group instruction, independent study, reading/viewing/listening space.
- 4.2 Space is also to be available for learning resource administrative tasks and for producing and storing materials.

5. District Level Support

- 5.1 The District will provide schools with instructional materials, equipment and technical support based on cost and demand.
- 5.2 The appropriate Director of Instruction provides leadership and support for school library/learning commons programs through the development of procedures, in-service, consultation, and advocacy for school library/learning commons programs.
- 5.3 District administrators will demonstrate support through procedures development and budget formulation which recognize the importance of school library/learning commons programs.

Reference: Sections 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85 *School Act*
Evaluating, Selecting, and Managing Learning Resources: A Guide (2002)

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