

Adopted	October 23, 2000
Revision Date	November 16, 2015
Review Year	2020

Background/Purpose:

In response to representations made regarding the treatment in school programs of such matters as Canadian content, family life education, sex-stereotyping and special creation, Alberta Education established provincial policy to deal with controversial issues. Included in their policy guidelines was a recommendation that school boards establish local policies regarding the identification and treatment of controversial issues and materials in the classroom.

Policy Statement:

The Board believes that students should have classroom experience in selecting and organizing information that facilitates drawing intelligent, moral, and rational conclusions.

Guidelines:

1. For sound moral judgements to be made, information regarding controversial issues should:
 - a. Represent alternative points of view.
 - b. Appropriately reflect the maturity, capabilities and educational needs of the students.
 - c. Reflect the requirements of the course as stated in the Program of Studies.
 - d. Reflect the neighborhood and community in which the school is located, but not to the exclusion of provincial, national and international contexts.
2. In dealing with controversial issues and topics, the teacher is expected to inform parents regarding the issues to be covered, the materials to be used and the approach to instruction in the classroom.
3. Parents may request, in writing, the exclusion of their child(ren) from formal instruction or activities dealing with a particular controversial issue.
4. Parents have the right to formally challenge the use of a particular instructional resource on the grounds of sex, racial, ethnic or cultural stereotyping or offensiveness to community standards.

Accountability:

Monitored on a five year cycle by the Board of Directors as part of its annual work plan.

References:

AR 7230 Controversial Issues and Materials