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## LEARNING COMMONS

### Background

Learning Commons, "...support students in attaining the goals and standards as stated in the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning* school authorities must ensure that students have access to a learning commons. A learning commons is an inclusive, flexible, learner-centered, physical and/or virtual space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play to expand and deepen learning."

The Division strives to provide students with educational programs that offer relevant, challenging, life-based learning opportunities. In achieving this mission, the Division believes that students must have access to effective learning commons areas and programs.

### Procedures

1. Suitable learning commons areas and programs will be provided in all Division schools.
  - 1.1 Learning commons will be housed in an area of the school that provides space that is suitable and flexible. The space must provide for the materials and programs presently found in learning commons but be able to accommodate changes in learning commons technology in the future.
  - 1.2 The Principal and all staff will demonstrate a commitment to, and share ownership of, the learning commons program by:
    - 1.2.1 Advocating and facilitating the development and implementation of an effective learning commons program;
    - 1.2.2 Considering learning commons resources as an integral part of the instructional program; and
    - 1.2.3 Modeling positive attitudes to the learning commons, learning commons resources and the use of learning commons resources.
  - 1.3 Through cooperative planning and teaching of the learning commons program students will:
    - 1.3.1 Use a variety of resources and technologies appropriate to their individual learning styles;
    - 1.3.2 Independently select and employ information retrieval strategies appropriate to the research assignment;
    - 1.3.3 Extract and interpret information from a variety of resources;
    - 1.3.4 Use a variety of appropriate information sharing strategies; and
    - 1.3.5 Develop an appreciation of literature and culture.

2. School procedures are required in each Division school that directs the operation of their learning commons. Each Principal will develop learning commons procedures that address:
  - 2.1 The development of learning commons programs that are supportive of the goals of education as determined by the province, the Division and the school;
  - 2.2 Matters regarding the development of the learning commons' collection;
  - 2.3 The removal of obsolete material;
  - 2.4 The handling of donated materials;
  - 2.5 The handling of controversial materials;
  - 2.6 The exclusion of materials restricted by any federal or provincial law; and
  - 2.7 The circulation of learning commons' materials.
3. Programs and materials will be provided in learning commons that support and enhance the educational program of the school.
  - 3.1 The selection of learning resources on controversial issues will satisfy Administrative Procedure 205 – Controversial Issues.

Reference: Section 3,18,33,41,52,53,55,196,197,222 Education Act  
Ministerial Order on Student Learning  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12

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