



Policy: Responsible Use of Educational Resources

Policy Number: AK

Policy Type: Foundations & Governance

1. Purpose

Hanover School Division supports the responsible use of educational resources to enhance and facilitate learning in a safe and caring environment. The Board affirms its commitment to ensure that all educational materials accessible to students are age-appropriate and supportive of educational outcomes.

The Policy is not intended to restrict legitimate educational inquiry, discussion, or the study of diverse ideas, but to ensure that materials are presented in a manner that is age-appropriate, educationally relevant, and consistent with student well-being.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all educational resources and all staff at HSD.

3. Definitions

Inappropriate Materials refers to any written, visual, audio, or digital material that may contain graphic or explicit content. Inappropriate Materials may also include content that encourages unlawful activity, contains graphic depictions of extreme physical harm, exploits minors, or that contains explicit and/or vulgar language. Materials that contain Sexualized Content, as defined below, are deemed to be Inappropriate Materials.

Educational Materials refers to content used to support student learning that is accurate, age-appropriate, and aligned with curricular outcomes or legitimate educational objectives, and that complies with all requirements of the Policy. Educational Materials may include literary, historical, scientific, artistic, or informational content, provided such materials comply with the standards established in the Policy.

Sexualized Content refers to written, visual, audio, or digital material that presents sexual behavior, themes, or nudity in a manner that encourages sexual activity or that place primary emphasis on sexualized desire rather than legitimate educational objectives such as human health.

4. Guidelines

School Principals are responsible for implementing this Policy and ensuring compliance. Teachers are expected to exercise professional judgement within the framework established by this Policy. If a teacher is unsure if material is Inappropriate Materials, they are directed to consult with/seek guidance from the Principal or Vice Principal.

Inappropriate Materials shall not be purchased, stored, distributed, displayed, or intentionally provided, assigned, or used in instruction.

Nothing in this Policy shall prevent the Division from delivering curricular outcomes required by Manitoba Education; however, materials used to deliver such outcomes must comply with the standards established in this Policy.

The Division supports a broad range of ideas and perspectives. The study of challenging topics, historical events, or literary works are to be presented in a manner that is age-appropriate.

5. Review Process

5.1 Parent concerns regarding Inappropriate Materials shall be addressed in accordance with the Hanover School Division Problem-Solving Steps (<https://hsd.ca/parents/positive-problem-solving/>).

5.2 No employee, parent, or student shall face reprisal for raising a concern under this Policy, in good faith.

5.3 If a parent makes an appeal to the Board of Trustees, in accordance with HSD Problem-Solving Steps, it shall be done at an in-camera meeting and follow the procedure for parent delegations under Policy BD.

5.4 The determination of whether material meets the definition of Inappropriate Materials shall be based on the content of the material itself. Educational purpose, context, or intended outcome does not permit the use of material that otherwise meets the definition of Inappropriate Materials.

6. Healthy Lifestyle Resources

The Hanover School Division respects the role of parents/guardians as the primary educators of their own children, particularly on topics that may be considered sensitive.

Educational Materials that are implemented in the Healthy Lifestyles course curriculum may be considered sensitive and shall be approved by the Principal prior to classroom use. Parents/guardians shall be notified, in writing, at least two (2) weeks prior to any planned instruction of topics that may be considered sensitive, including classroom lessons or presentation by external guests. Parents have the right to review Educational Materials as part of the Healthy Lifestyles course curriculum, prior to use and may withdraw their child from participation in accordance with *The Public Schools Act* and Division procedures.

7. Implementation

7.1 Ongoing Training – Principals are required to review this Policy with staff, at the start of each school year and record in staff meeting minutes..

7.2 Resource Monitoring – Schools shall undertake best efforts to ensure that Educational Materials acquired or introduced for student use comply with this Policy.

7.3 Reporting to the Board – The Superintendent shall periodically report to the Board of Trustees regarding the reviews conducted under this Policy.

8. Policy Enforcement

8.1 Failure to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with applicable policies and/or procedures.

Date Policy Created	June 2, 2026
Date of last Review:	
Reference(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Criminal Code of Canada, Sections 151-153, 162, 163, and 171, 171.1- The Public Schools Act (Manitoba), Sections 41 and 47- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 7 and 15- Manitoba Education – “Safe and Caring Schools Policy Framework”
Related Forms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- HSD Policy AH – Responsible Use of Technology- HSD Policy AG – Safe and Caring Schools