

SUBJECT: LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE SERVICES

(policy adopted March 1987)

L.E.A.D.S. concurs with the Curriculum and Instruction Review Committee statement on the role of the school learning resource centre:

The role of the learning resource centre is to provide access to a wide variety of resources that are chosen to support the curriculum and meet the individual needs of staff and students. In addition, the learning resource centre provides programs and services that ensure the effective use of those resources and thus improve the quality of education in the school.

At the same time, L.E.A.D.S. recognizes that a single pattern for developing learning resource centre services cannot be prescribed for all school divisions. Nevertheless, there are some basic principles that are fundamental to division-wide planning. These principles must, of necessity, be adapted to meet the varying educational priorities and needs, and the financial realities, of school divisions in different parts of Saskatchewan. Once translated into goal statements, however, these principles will reflect the fundamental philosophy which shapes the objectives for division-wide planning of learning resource centre programs of services.

The following principles should be part of that fundamental philosophy:

- Faced with the massive accumulation of information in our society, the fundamental need for students is to become independent learners – to develop skills of judgement, evaluation, critical thinking, and informed decision-making. The learning resource must be a vital component of the school program; its learning resource materials and services must be integral to the teaching-learning process.
- School divisions should strive toward providing well-trained and qualified staff members for school learning resource centre services.
- The increasing prevalence of resource-based curricula which require adequate learning resource centre collections for their successful implementation necessitates that there be provision for significant participation by classroom and learning resource centre teachers in curriculum planning, implementation and resource selection.
- The use of electronic means of accessing information should be available to all students.
- In order to accommodate the concept of research-based learning the concept of resource centre available to today's students should extend beyond four walls.

These fundamental principles should be seen as goals toward which divisions will strive through a planned process of phased development. Learning resource centre programs are at varying stages of development in school divisions. Each school division must assess its current situation; take stock of available resources; and then develop a plan which has as its ultimate goal the attainment of the principles outlined above. The need for personnel, facilities, materials, and technology in any particular school learning resource centre will be determined by the stage of development of that learning resource centre program in terms of the overall development plan of the school division.