

School Libraries

1. School library programs will be consistent with the Goals of the School Education Plan and shall be an integral component of each school's program.
2. School library regulations will be consistent with the regulations set in Policy Guidelines and Standards for School Libraries in Alberta.
3. The Division will be affiliated with a regional library system in order to enhance opportunities for students.
4. School Principals, librarians and library staff shall be responsible for program development, program implementation and budget recommendations at the school level.
5. Each school will be required to develop goals, guidelines and policies for the use of its library, together with plans for the integration of library services into the regular program and the development of specific library skills.

Learning Commons

In the Guide to Education, a Learning Commons has been defined as an inclusive, flexible, learner-centered, physical and/or virtual space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play to expand and deepen learning. School authorities must ensure that students have access to a learning commons to support the goals and standards as stated in the Ministerial Order on Student Learning.

1. The following is an excerpt from the Guide to Education 2015-2016, and will serve as the Division's guideline for implementation of these principles into practice:

The goal of the learning commons is to enable all students to be engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit. The concept of a learning commons is a shift in thinking from a library as a physical space that is a repository of books, to an inclusive, flexible, learner-centred, physical and/or virtual space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play to expand and deepen learning. A learning commons is an agile and responsive learning and teaching environment available to individuals and groups to use for multiple, often simultaneous, purposes. It supports literacy, numeracy, competency development and student learning outcomes through access to and instruction in the effective use of print and digital resources. The learning commons approach functions best when learning experiences in the school community are coordinated to support student learning outcomes through collaborative planning, teaching and assessing.

The learning commons should:

- *support the development of competencies in many areas, including the gathering, analysis and evaluation of information*
- *provide support, space and resources for inquiry, play and imagination*
- *provide support, resources and opportunities for transferability of learning to support broad exploration and inquiry that leads to deeper learning*
- *provide and support technology for learning to enable creation, collaboration and communication*

- *provide student access to and guidance on the use of:*
 - *online public access catalogues (OPAC)*
 - *online licensed and open access resources*
 - *quality print and digital learning resources in multiple formats that are reviewed to ensure they address a diverse range of student learning and developmental needs*
- *focus on quality learning resources in multiple formats and provide exposure to a wide variety of Canadian and international resources (fiction and non-fiction) which reflect multiple perspectives, promote literacy and numeracy and develop students' interests and competencies beyond the school setting. These resources should include those that:*
 - *recognize and respect Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples*
 - *reflect and support the cultural and linguistic perspectives of Francophone communities*
- *provide high quality learning resources in English, French and other languages, as applicable, in order to support instruction and self-directed reading*
- *be flexible enough to provide teacher support in person or via technology, in varied full-time equivalencies or shared among schools/districts*
- *continue to promote intellectual freedom*

Reference

[Alberta Education Guide to Education Ministerial Order on Student Learning Libraries Act](#)