



Calgary Board of Education
Learning Innovation

Evaluation & Selection
May 2010

Actions thus far:

- Ongoing strategic collaboration with *Acquisition of Digital Resources* project to provide a process for evaluation of resources in ALL formats
- Created a plan to ensure we are more explicit in communicating our specific curriculum requirements and language needs to vendors.
- Increased pre-selection of desired items by conducting research in professional reviewing journals.
- Met face to face with some vendors to explain our specific needs and our growing needs for quality resources in other languages.
- Revised existing evaluation criteria for learning resources.
- Guidelines for evaluating learning resources will be updated in June.
- Reviewing sessions are streamlined through:
 1. Strategic culling in the initial stage ensuring fewer items to review and guarantee that we only recommend the “Best of the Best”.
 2. Implement the use of a checklist at the initial identification phase that immediately identifies the subject area connections and the intended grade level for the resource.
 3. Creation of a shorter and more concise evaluation form to use at the reviewing sessions.
- Increased participation/involvement of subject-area specialists in the reviewing/evaluation sessions (science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, French, ELL, FNMI)
- Strategically work in collaboration with ERS (cataloguers, bibliographers, library technicians, etc)
- Assembled a list of vendors/distributors for sourcing international language resource materials and sent RFPs to the vendors. The closing date was April 30. Decisions will be made in June. This is being done in close collaboration with CBE Purchasing Services.
- Selection/Evaluation of videos (EMM) was done in collaboration with COAC.
- CBE READS is a reading initiative, during winter and summer breaks that invite CBE teachers to read, write, and post reviews of newly published fiction books. This initiative is provided for English, French and Spanish works of fiction.
- Planning is underway for a summer course on evaluation and selection with a focus on International languages. The programme would take place during the week of August 16th and run for 2 or 3 days. Framework/emphasis would be on

building professional development skills in, and knowledge of the evaluation process for the purpose of examining resources (e.g. for multiple types and for a variety of school-based purposes). Practice would involve real resources being considered for recommendation to schools. Information on funding of the initiative is pending.