

The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recognizes the importance of using the *Bias Evaluation Instrument* to select learning resources that are aligned with the *Inclusive Education Policy* and promote culturally safe spaces.

In 2018, EECD accepted the recommendation from the *Raise the Bar* report, that teachers and principals be given shared responsibility for selecting textbooks and learning materials to best support their teaching needs. This selection of materials will follow the provincial curriculum and be chosen using departmental bias evaluation guidelines.

In September 2019, the *Inclusive Education Policy* was approved. The *Inclusive Education Policy* objective is to ensure every student has access to an equitable and high-quality education that is culturally and linguistically responsive, accepting, and respectful in supporting and valuing their learning and diverse abilities. It is everyone's professional responsibility to ensure that all students experience a safe, caring, and inclusive education.

Successful inclusive education requires ensuring that every student sees themselves reflected throughout their schools, learning resources, and within their learning experiences, and that the appropriate guidelines are followed.

**For more information, contact:**  
**African Canadian Services Branch**  
Brunswick Place, 2021 Brunswick Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2S9  
(902) 424-3151



# KNOW THE SIGNALS:

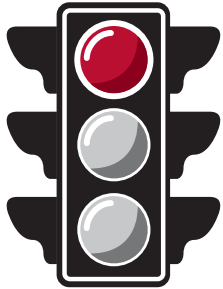
A Guide for Selecting Learning Resources that Value Black Students' Lives



The African Canadian Services Branch is dedicated to collaborating across the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development with students, parents, families, community, education partners, and stakeholders to build a Nova Scotian education system that is equitable, culturally responsive, and a safe learning environment.

# KNOW THE SIGNALS:

## A Guide for Selecting Learning Resources that Value Black Students' Lives



### STOP

Do not use

- The learning resource depicts gratuitous violence towards a group of Black individuals and has the potential to expose students to traumatizing events and images.
- The learning resource uses racist terms and/or portrays African Nova Scotians and Black people of African ancestry from a deficit, stereotypical and racist perspective that runs counter to how they are “Known.”
- The learning resource portrays Black people living with disabilities mainly as being incapable, helpless, lacking intelligence, or lacking creativity.
- The learning resource portrays Black individuals in a superficial and uniform way.
- The learning resource portrays Black individuals and groups as less intelligent or incapable if they use languages, dialects, or speech patterns that differ from what is considered “standard” language.
- The depiction of Black individuals or groups in the resource is stereotypical or negative based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender.
- The resource portrays Black individuals, groups, or classes negatively solely based on where they live.



### WAIT

Consult

- The learning resource is controversial.
- The learning resource selected restricts/excludes certain racialized students out of the classroom, and/or from classroom study and discussion.
- The learning resource could negatively influence students' cultural/social/personal experiences outside the classroom.
- The learning resource raises questions or concerns for students or families regarding the content and appropriateness for use in the classroom.
- The learning resource raises disturbing questions or concerns for you after reflecting on new information from professional learning or listening to the students in your care.
- The learning resource is void of the authentic and rich histories and diverse cultures of Black students in the school, classroom, and society.
- The learning resource has been “flagged” in the system by EECD or regional staff.
- The learning resource is not on the Authorized Learning List. Complete the Bias Evaluation Process.



### GO

Use

- The learning resource is on the Authorized Learning Resource list.
- The resource is responsive to the diversity in the school, classroom, and society.
- The learning resource provides students with opportunities to demonstrate respect for themselves, other individuals, and groups while helping them foster co-operation and teamwork, responsible citizenship, respect for human rights, social justice, and building healthy inclusive relationships.
- The learning resource helps students to understand that all peoples and cultures are interrelated and interdependent.
- The learning resource plays an important role in helping students acquire a positive self-image and ensuring that the identities of all peoples are valued.

For more information, please refer to the [Bias Evaluation Instrument](#) and the [Bias Evaluation Record](#) at: [studentservices.ednet.ns.ca](http://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca).

Learning resources include texts, videos, software and apps, audio or visual media, and other materials that educators use to address learning outcomes.