



## **School libraries are a place to encourage student inquiry beyond classroom learning and foster the love of reading.**

### **Student Access and Parental Permissions**

Upon enrollment, grant all students in public schools access to all resources made available in the media center and the classroom, corresponding to their grade level. This is also known as “opt-out” as parents can choose a different library access level. This ensures uniform high-quality education while also ensuring parental rights for those who wish to actively set limits on the reading materials available to their children.

*Justification: “Opt-in” policies create unnecessary barriers to student access. Districts that require parent permission before accessing the library still had a large student population without library access at the end of the first quarter, due to parental inaction, not parental restrictions.*

### **Book Removal**

In order to protect all parents’ rights and include local input, all removals should follow a formal challenge process that includes the state’s objection form and public review hearings.

*Justification: Public participation is vital in the reconsideration process and without these transparent protections, we will continue to see removals occur without stakeholder input.*

### **Define Terms**

Define the age and what is developmentally appropriate as it applies to an individual student’s self-selected library materials.

*Justification: Doing this would consider various reading levels, community standards, and student age range and grade level. It will also stress the difference between “classroom instructional materials” (captive audience) and “independent reading materials” (self-selection).*

### **Separate Training**

In 2022 the state passed HB 1467 which requires school libraries and media specialists to undergo library media training. The DOE combined this training with classroom Instructional Materials Selection. We believe that these should be two separate trainings.

*Justification: The current training causes confusion over criteria for selection because it does not clearly distinguish the differing criteria between instructional and library materials and the different roles responsible for ensuring that unique criteria is met. When choosing new classroom materials, the adoption committees are subject area teachers.*

### **Set Restrictions**

Any objections to material offered within a classroom or school library should not cause substantial disruption in time or cost to those responsible for curation. The ability for the local governing body to set reasonable restrictions is requested.

*Justification: There is evidence of extreme use of challenge objections.*

### **Update Current Language**

Clarify current language that allows for a special magistrate process that would appeal a district’s decision that resulted in retention, removal, or restriction of a material that was previously available.

*Justification: A special magistrate process would be available for all if it is found that the school board did not follow their own policy and state statute.*