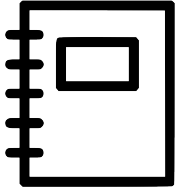


# NJEA Partnership Workshop

## School Policies & Book Challenges



### Board of Education policies

#### Concerning Trends:

- admin & BOE not following policy
- introduce restrictive BOE policy to censor using vague & legally undefined terms
- remove librarians/classroom teachers from Reconsideration Committees
- increased self-censorship → the objective of censors

#### Policies to know:

##### **0167 - Public Participation in Board Meetings**

what can & can't be said (Rice notification applies)

##### **2530 - Materials selection**

how materials are approved for classrooms & libraries

##### **9130 - Community complaints**

who can complain & how complaints must be handled

##### **6161 - Instructional Services & Resources**

used by some districts instead of 2530/9130

#### Exemplars



### NJ Requirements for Safe & Inclusive Schools



NJ has several laws and DOE regulations that support safe and inclusive schools, dating from 1994. QSAC monitors district compliance.



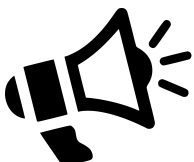
### Legislation & Legal Precedents on Censorship

**Right to Read Bill (S3907)** - Would prohibit public libraries and public schools from banning or restricting access to certain books

**Ratio Bill (S1903)** - Would require a certain number of certified school library media specialists to students



Read about legal precedents that support freedom to read, and provide a legal definition of obscenity.



### Reporting is Critical

Report harassment to NJ AG:  
[schooldiscrimination@njcivilrights.gov](mailto:schooldiscrimination@njcivilrights.gov)

How to report  
censorship:



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## School Policies & Book Challenges



### Role of the school library media specialist:

- Master's degree training in material selection & collection management
- 360° view of curriculum → your instructional partner
- Search and information professional expert
- Supports students **and** staff



### Reconsideration process best practices:

- Committee convened in response to a **formal, written challenge**
- Clear guidelines in 9130 to remove emotionality
- **Materials remain in use** while under consideration
- Committee members listed in 9130, should include librarian, subject teacher, administrator, student, parent and/or community member
- Thorough **documentation** establishes credibility of committee's work
- Must read **entire book** to fairly assess
- Must consider the needs of **all** students
- Board of Education must acknowledge

## More Food for Thought

**Answers to common false narratives and misinformation**  
about books in schools from Rochester Free to Read



**How books enter the school library**  
From Martha Hickson



**What's the problem with content ratings?**  
It's still censorship. From Martha Hickson



**More thoughts on book ratings**  
Political scientist Richard Price of Weber State University explains why ratings applied by government entities are unconstitutional.



Contact us: [advocacy@njasl.org](mailto:advocacy@njasl.org) or [rrt@njasl.org](mailto:rrt@njasl.org)  
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