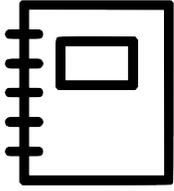


NJEA Partnership Workshop

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

How to report
censorship:



NJEA Partnership Workshop

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 or rrt@njasl.org
NJASL is a proud NJEA Affiliate Organization.