



Talking about Censorship in New Jersey's Public Schools

When talking to parents about book or curricula banning, remember:

- Censorship is never the answer.
- Our country's greatest strength is our richly diverse population and our collective willingness to learn from our differences and come together, despite those differences.
- Children—no matter their color, background, or ZIP code—deserve an honest and accurate education so they can learn from our past mistakes and forge a better future.
- Banning books is never about protecting children; it is always about erasing our history and distorting reality. It's often about inciting fear and motivating voters.
- Everyone benefits when students learn to better understand the lives, cultures, beliefs and experiences of different people.
- Classroom educators work with state and local district officials to develop age-appropriate, culturally relevant curricula, which includes a thorough and well-established book selection process, that provides our children with an education that imparts honesty about who we are, integrity in how we treat others, and courage to do what's right.
- Students deserve the freedom to read more books that are as diverse and complex as the society in which we live. When we have books that include characters of all races, genders and backgrounds, students discover their own voices and learn from the stories and voices of others.
- When some politicians or community leaders attempt to ban books, censor lessons, or erase people from the history books, they deprive students of an honest and accurate history that enables them to learn from the mistakes of our past to help create a better future.