



Virginia Association of School Librarians
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VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Position Statement on Censorship of Books in Virginia School Libraries

The Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) upholds the First Amendment rights and Freedom to Read of all students in Virginia schools. We oppose censorship and the removal of library books, without following the policies and procedures set by the local school division.

- We recognize that not every book is right for every reader. Parents have the right to set reading parameters and restrictions for their own children. However, no one person or group has the right to make choices for other children and every child should have access to books they may want to read. Ready access to a wide variety of reading materials increases the chances that learners will become readers and choose to read.
- Virginia school librarians are professional educators, trained in selecting materials to meet the needs of a broad and diverse community of students. School librarians strive to know learners and assist them in finding books that fit their needs and interests. In addition, the selection of materials for school libraries is guided by district collection development policies in addition to guidelines from the American Library Association.
- Districts have reconsideration policies and procedures for constituents wishing to request review of specific materials. These procedures should be followed each and every time a request is made to remove a book or library resource. Statements from elected officials should never replace or supersede these policies and procedures as determined by local school boards.

VAASL stands in full support of our members and affirms their professional expertise in selecting materials.