

INTELLECTUAL freedom Matters for School Board Members

START WITH THE MAINE LEARNING RESULTS

Maine law since 1997,
revised in 2011

<https://tinyurl.com/mt3h4j5y>

KNOW YOUR POLICIES

"... The FINAL AUTHORITY as to what materials an individual student will be exposed to rests with THAT STUDENT'S PARENTS OR GUARDIANS."

From Policy IJJ

"... AT NO TIME will the wishes of one child's parents... INFRINGE ON OTHER PARENTS' RIGHTS TO permit their children to read or view the same material."

- ✓ IJJ - Instructional + Library Materials Selection
- ✓ IJJ-E - Challenge of Instructional Materials form
- ✓ IMB - Teaching About Controversial - sensitive Topics
- ✓ IMBB - Exemption from Required Instruction

Question:

Does your policy require the concern to be filed by a resident?

Key Point:

Individual staff members do not have the authority to remove a book from the library, classroom, or instructional program because of a complaint.

KNOW YOUR RESOURCES



Joint Statement of Commitment and Support of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Maine Schools (Maine DOE) - <https://tinyurl.com/vzmwutnc>

Intellectual Freedom: Book Challenges (MASL) - <https://tinyurl.com/mtjsxjhe>

MASL Supports School Libraries in their Efforts to Provide Diverse Reading Choices for all Students - <https://tinyurl.com/2ncnju25>

The American Library Association Opposes Widespread Efforts to Censor Books in U.S. Schools and Libraries - <https://tinyurl.com/24mxtmv9>

Statement on Censorship of Information Addressing Racial Injustice, Black American History, and Diversity Education (ALA): <https://tinyurl.com/2mfd9vja>

KNOW YOUR ORGANIZATIONS

NEED MORE
SUPPORT?

The American Library Association (ALA)
The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom
National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC)

Educate Maine
Maine Department of Education (Maine DOE)
Maine Association of Middle Level Educators (MAMLE)
Maine Association of School Libraries (MASL)
Maine Council for English Language Arts (MCELA)
Maine Curriculum Leaders Association (MCLA)
Maine Education Association (MEA)
Maine Principals' Association (MPA)
Maine School Boards Association (MSBA)
Maine School Superintendent Association (MSSA)
University of Maine College of Education and Human Development (UMCOEHD)

"Many expressions of concern end after the individual has had an opportunity to express personal feelings about a library resource. The person only wanted to be heard and have his opinions acknowledged. No further action is needed. If this is the case, thank the person for their interest, make notes about the conversation, and file them for future reference."

American Library Association,
<https://tinyurl.com/yuat7t9y>

"Listen and ask questions.

Asking questions allows you to better understand where people are coming from, show you're listening and potentially de-escalate and change the tone of the conversation."

Education Minnesota,
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8bnrhf>

"Have you read the book?"

Claudette Brassil, retired Maine English Teacher and winner of the National Council of Teachers of English Intellectual Freedom Award

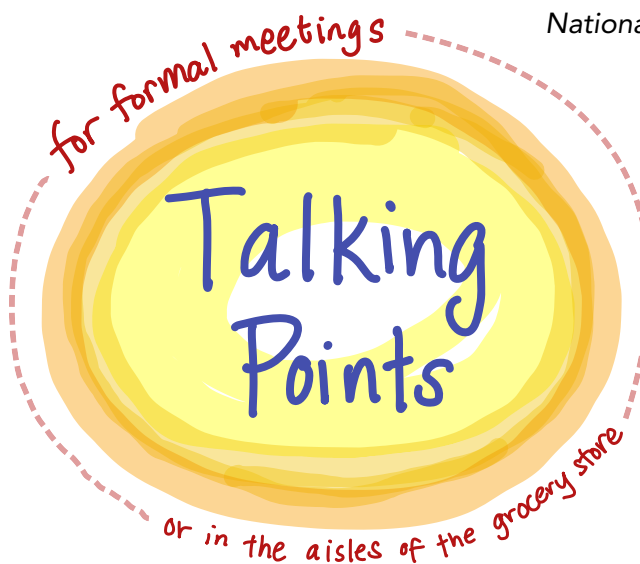
"We want to make clear that we support equity for all students when it comes to their opportunity to learn. Equity of opportunity is defined as what is needed for students – based on the task or situation at hand. The push for equity of opportunity for all students should not be mislabeled as Critical Race Theory (CRT) – a term dating back to the 1970's and one that is no longer used in public education."
Five Town CSD/ MSAD28, <https://tinyurl.com/ycknhra8>

"No matter our color, background, or ZIP code, we want our children to have an education that teaches honestly about who we are, integrity in how we treat others, and courage to do what's right."
Education Minnesota,
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8bnrhf>

"Listen courteously and refer complainants to the teacher involved who can address any concerns about sensitive material. Teachers can best explain the educational purpose of the contested material and its appropriateness to students' intellectual maturity. If the complainant is not satisfied, invite them to initiate the formal reconsideration process by submitting a written request."

National Coalition Against Censorship,
<https://tinyurl.com/2d37fmm2>

As a school/district, "...we have a responsibility to serve all of the kids who come to us. We have a responsibility to offer literature choices that speak to all of them and meet all of their diverse needs."
Kate Messner,
<https://tinyurl.com/yc2preh9>



"When children cannot find themselves reflected in the books they read, or when the images they see are distorted, negative, or laughable, they learn a powerful lesson about how they are devalued in the society of which they are a part."
Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop

"If you object to books about hunting for your own child (let's say you're an animal rights activist), you have every right to be in contact with the librarian and your child's teacher to express that preference and ask for alternatives for your child. But for a kid who hunts, these books about families who hunt, and books about hunting, tracking, or butchering game, are relevant and reflect their lived experience. Readers of all ages deserve to find that in their libraries. No parent should have the right to dictate what another parent's child can read, view or listen to."
Iris Eichenlaub, Librarian and 2017 Knox County Teacher of the Year

Infographic Brought to You by

Educate Maine
Maine Department of Education
Maine Assoc. of Middle Level Education
Maine Association of School Libraries
Maine Council for English Language Arts
Maine County and State Teachers of the Year Association

Maine Curriculum Leaders Association
Maine Principals' Association
Maine School Superintendent Association
Maine School Boards Association
National Board Certified Teachers of Maine
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