



AISLE

Association of Illinois School
Library Educators

Statement on Attempts to Censor or Remove Materials from School Libraries December 2021

AISLE is opposed to any attempt to force the removal of materials from school libraries. We strongly condemn recent efforts, by force or intimidation, to remove works that focus on or document the experiences of members of the LGBTQIA+ or BIPOC communities. We oppose censorship and any effort that limits or denies access to materials to coerce belief, suppress opinion, or punish those whose expression does not conform to a singular point-of-view of history, politics, or religion.

AISLE is committed to defending the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. Censorship violates each of these freedoms that we cherish. We believe that the First Amendment extends to school libraries, our students, and their freedom to read.

The school library collection should be curated to serve the needs of students who live in a global community. School librarians are professional educators specifically trained to evaluate, select, and purchase high-quality materials that meet students' educational and recreational needs. Students should be allowed to find information and characters in books that reflect their lived experiences and the experiences of others in the world around them. School librarians strive to provide students with books that contain the wide and varied perspectives of the global society, not just that of a single individual or point of view.

AISLE believes that exposure to a wide variety of perspectives and the unfettered exchange of ideas is necessary to preserve the freedoms guaranteed in a democratic society.

Approved by AISLE Board 12/16/2021

School library staff in need of support are encouraged to contact AISLE. Call 815-357-6023 or email execsecretary@aisled.org or president@aisled.org