



South Carolina Association of School Librarians

P.O. BOX 2442 • COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

The South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) upholds the First Amendment rights and Freedom to Read of all our citizens, including students in South Carolina schools. We strongly condemn any form of censorship or removal of books and materials from libraries without following established processes.

South Carolina school librarians are professional educators, trained in selecting materials to meet the needs of a broad and diverse community of students. The selection of materials for school libraries is guided by district collection development policies and guidelines from the American Library Association. Districts also 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.

School libraries serve all students and do not operate with any agenda, only the desire to offer high quality materials to meet the academic and recreational reading needs of all of our students.

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.

In fact, the Supreme Court has affirmed this position through several cases such as the 1982 [Island Trees School District v. Pico case](#). Justice Brennan wrote for the majority opinion: "Local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books and seek by their removal to 'prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion.'"

SCASL stands in full support of our members and affirm their professional expertise in selecting materials.