

How to Respond to Book Challenges

School Libraries are the cornerstone of the community dedicated to serve the information needs of all students. As they curate a collection that incorporates a broad spectrum of ideas and information, it is inevitable that people will occasionally encounter resources that they believe to be inappropriate or offensive.

Acknowledge Parent and Student Rights



Listen thoughtfully and respectfully. Try to elicit the specific reason for their concern, whether they have read the entire work or only parts, and the specific action they would like the library to take.

Offer Assistance in Finding Other Materials



Do not promise to act or appear to agree with the individual. Instead, offer assistance in finding something else that would better meet child's needs.

Describe a library's mission



To provide access to information for all users, diverse collections with resources from many points of view, All library users have the First Amendment right to borrow, read, view, and listen to library resources.

Explain a parent's vital role in guiding their child's library use



Parents and guardians play a major role in guiding their child's reading and library use. Each family has the right to determine which library resources are acceptable for their children and must afford the same right to other parents.

Thank and acknowledge sharing of opinions



Many expressions of concern end after the individual has had an opportunity to be heard and express personal feelings about a library resource. Make notes about the conversation and report the conversation to the library director or principal.

Explain process if parent asks for material to be removed?



Explain the formal reconsideration process and provide a copy. Often people who have a concern would like immediate action and are not aware of the process.

District Reconsideration Policy (for schools)

1

Submit a *Request for Reconsideration*



To initiate the reconsideration process, a patron completes and submits a **Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials** for to the school.

2

Receive Request for Reconsideration Form



Inform school administrator and Library/Ed Tech Director upon receipt of completed form

3

Form School Evaluation Committee



- School library media specialist
- School administrator
- Faculty member (prefer English faculty)
- PTA Representative
- Member of the community

4

Evaluate the material



Each committee member will complete an **Evaluation of Materials** form, giving particular attention to the concerns that were expressed by the patron.

5

Provide Written Decision



The written decision of the School Library Collection Evaluation Committee should be given to the person(s) submitting the request for reconsideration.