

**NATIONAL
COALITION
AGAINST
CENSORSHIP** **KIDS'
RIGHT
TO READ**

February 1, 2023

Board of Trustees
McKinney Independent School District
One Duvall Street,
McKinney, Texas 75069

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

The National Coalition Against Censorship is an alliance of national nonprofit groups dedicated to protecting freedom of expression, including the rights of K-12 students, teachers, and staff. We are writing in regards to recent changes in district policy which require books that include sexual content be removed even if they have substantial educational value for students. We are concerned that the revised policy is overbroad and thus could be abused.

District policy EFB Local states that libraries may not include materials which are "harmful" to minors or "obscene." Previously, the policy followed Texas Penal Code to define those terms to only apply to books which "taken as a whole" lacked "serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value." However, the new policy removes those criteria and therefore requires the removal of books which have educational value.

Most districts allow high school students to have access to books which happen to have sexual images or language but which are nevertheless valuable. The new policy requires the district to remove many such books, including the Bible, works of fiction like *East of Eden*, and nonfiction books dealing with science, art history, and sex education.

Therefore, we urge you to rescind your recent amendment to district policy.

NCAC has created a resource to help school officials address the problem of book challenges, *Material Review and Policy Guidelines and Examples*. It is attached.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any further support in this matter.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Christopher Finan
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship

Co-signed by: American Booksellers for Free Expression
The Authors Guild
Children's and Young Adult Books Committee, PEN America
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

A project of the National
Coalition Against Censorship

CO-SPONSORED BY

American Booksellers for
Free Expression
Comic Book Legal
Defense Fund
National Council of
Teachers of English

NCAC.ORG