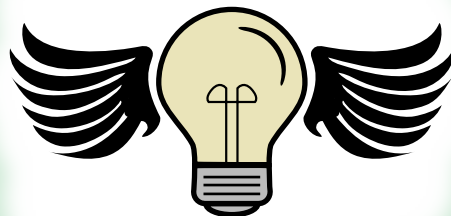


INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM 101: PRINCIPLES FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS



1 RIGHT TO READ
Students possess the right to read and receive information, regardless of format, based on their First Amendment free speech rights and court decisions.

2 SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS
Every school should have a board-approved school library selection policy that forms the legal basis for selection and reconsideration of the collection.

3 SELF-CENSORSHIP
Librarians must adhere to their professional ethics and avoid letting their fear of challenges, personal beliefs, values, or biases influence their selection decisions.

4 CHALLENGES AND CENSORSHIP
Librarians must resist all attempts to remove or restrict library materials that meet the materials selection policy criteria. Questioned materials should not be removed without due process according to policy.

5 FILTERING
Overly restrictive filtering often blocks legitimate educational and constitutionally protected online content.

6 PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY
State privacy laws regarding library records and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act are difficult to interpret and may clash with minors' privacy rights supported by the ALA Code of Ethics. Students' privacy is safeguarded best by a board-approved privacy policy that details how their records are protected and to whom and under what circumstances they may be released.



7 RESTRICTING ACCESS AND PERSONAL CHOICE
Computerized reading management programs that label spines with "book levels" frequently limit students to selecting only those books that match their reading levels. Librarians should advocate for students' free choice of library materials.

8 STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
To fulfill legal and ethical responsibilities, librarians must provide programs, resources, and accessible facilities to meet the needs of disabled students and others with special needs (e.g., homeless, English language learners, at-risk, and gifted children).