



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 13, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Assistant Superintendents, Principals, School Library Media Specialists
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Development of Model Policies for Library Material Curation and Review Under the Freedom to Read Act

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is issuing this broadcast to guide Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in implementing the Freedom to Read Act (N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-1, *et seq.*), signed into law on December 9, 2024. This legislation affirms the right of students, educators, and communities to access diverse and age-appropriate learning materials in school libraries.

Key Requirements for LEAs

1. Policy Development: Each LEA must develop or revise policies governing:
 - The selection and curation of library materials.
 - A transparent review process for addressing concerns about materials including requests for removal of library material within a school library.
2. Non-Discrimination Clause: Policies must prohibit the exclusion of library materials based on:
 - The origin, background, or views of the material or its author.
 - Disagreement with a viewpoint, unless the material is developmentally inappropriate for a specific age group.
3. Staff Protections: Library staff are protected from civil or criminal liability when acting in accordance with the law.
4. Collaboration Encouraged: LEAs are encouraged to work with school librarians, educators, and community stakeholders to ensure policies reflect local needs and uphold intellectual freedom.

Support and Resources

As required by the Freedom to Read Act, the NJDOE has created [model policy templates](#) on the NJDOE website for LEA use in creating local policies for curation and removal of library materials.

Contact information

For questions or support, please contact Standards@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group