

# **Intellectual Freedom**

WSRA supports intellectual and academic freedom as a cornerstone of our democracy. WSRA has a long-standing support of intellectual and academic freedom. WSRA supports helping students develop critical perspectives which include interpretation and evaluation of what is read, viewed and heard. This is vital to literacy and our mission.

## **Resources to Support Intellectual Freedom**

### **International Literacy Association (ILA)**

800 Barksdale Road

PO Box 8139

Newark, DE 19711-8139

1-800-336-7323

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org>

WSRA is an affiliate of the International Literacy Association. ILA provides the public with resources on critical issues.

“The Essential Leadership for School Librarians.”

[https://www.literacyworldwide.org/docs/default-source/where-we-stand/the-essential-leadership-of-school-librarians.pdf?sfvrsn=f80c5216\\_6](https://www.literacyworldwide.org/docs/default-source/where-we-stand/the-essential-leadership-of-school-librarians.pdf?sfvrsn=f80c5216_6)

“Censorship in School Libraries Across the Globe” free webinar

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/meetings-events/ila-digital-events/free-for-everyone/censorship-in-school-libraries>

### **Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)**

4290 Helen C. White Hall

600 N. Park St.

Madison , WI 53706

(608) 263-3720

[www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc](http://www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc).

The Cooperative Children’s Book Center of UW Madison has excellent resources to support intellectual freedom. The CCBC have been annual presenters at WSRA’s Conference.

“Intellectual Freedom”

<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/intellectual-freedom-2/>

**American Library Association ( ALA )**

Freedom to Read Foundation

50 East Huron St.

Chicago , IL 60611

(312) 280-4224 or

(800) 545-2433 ext. 4224

[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

The American Library Assoc is the largest library organization in the world. ALA has a wealth of resources supporting intellectual and academic freedom.

“Intellectual Freedom: Issues and Resources”

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom>

“Freedom to Read Foundation” (an affiliate of ALA)

<https://www.ftrf.org/>

**National Council Teachers of English (NCTE)**

1111 Kenyon Road

Urbana , IL 61801-1096

(800) 369-6283 ext.400

[www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org)

“All students have the right to materials and educational experiences that promote open inquiry, critical thinking, diversity in thought and expression, and respect for others.” NCTE

The National Council of Teachers of English provides resources supporting intellectual and academic freedom.

NCTE Intellectual Freedom Center

<https://ncte.org/resources/ncte-intellectual-freedom-center/>

**Pen America**

588 Broadway, Suite 303

New York, NY 10012

(212) 334-1660

[pen.org](http://pen.org)

“Founded in 1922, PEN America is the largest of the more than 100 centers worldwide that make up the PEN International network. PEN America works to ensure that people everywhere have the freedom to create literature, to convey information and ideas, to express their views, and to access the views, ideas, and literatures of others.”

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**

131 W. 43rd St.  
New York , NY 10036  
(212) 944-9800  
[www.aclu.com](http://www.aclu.com)

“Celebrating the Freedom to Read”

<https://www.aclu.org/other/celebrating-freedom-read>

**People for the American Way**

200 M St., NW - Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 467-2381  
[www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org)

“Banned Books Week: Book Bans Are an Attack on the Freedom to Read, Teach and Learn.”

<https://www.pfaw.org/blog-posts/banned-books-week-book-bans-are-an-attack-on-the-freedom-to-read-teach-and-learn/?>

Old Website information:

## **Intellectual Freedom Position Statement**

The purpose of this committee shall be to gather resources, disseminate information and educate itself and the members of WSRA in order to uphold the value of intellectual and academic freedom. The committee will be concerned with advising and supporting practicing educators in maintaining intellectual and academic freedom in the context of their work.

### **An Educator's Action Plan**

- Check to see if there are print and nonprint material selection policies and procedures on file in the district. If there is no policy, develop one with your administration and school board.
- Prepare and/or collect rationales for the use of specific curricular materials.
- Dialogue with the parents/community on controversial issues to gain support.
- Find alternate choices for students.
- Engage students in discussions/activities to intellectual freedom.

### **After a Challenge:**

- Try to resolve the challenge informally.
- Provide a request for review form if needed.
- Make sure district review procedures are followed.
- Conduct the review openly. Look for sources to support the material(s) being questioned.

### **Resources That Will Help Fight Censorship**

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Newark , DE 19711-8139

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**Resources About Copyright**

Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.chillingeffects.org/fairuse/faq>