



## RESOLUTION: SUPPORTING DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE BOOKS AND MEDIA IN SCHOOLS

**Whereas:** A book ban occurs when an objection to the content of a specific book or type of book leads to that volume being withdrawn either fully or partially from availability, or when a blanket prohibition or absolute restriction is placed on a [particular title](#);<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas:** There has been an increase in books being challenged which means that a person, group, or institution is trying to remove or restrict access to a book because they object to the book's content, ideas, or [themes](#);<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas:** The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 729 challenges to library, school, and university [materials and services in 2021](#);<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas:** For the 2020 Top 10 challenged book lists, six out of ten most challenged books are about race and racism and by authors of color, [most of whom are Black](#)<sup>4</sup> and 41 percent of these books included LGBTQ+ characters or themes; and

**Whereas:** Books for young people should serve as both [mirrors and windows](#)<sup>5</sup> to reflect and represent children and people in our society and world. This helps young people see themselves and feel valued (mirrors) and provides opportunities to learn about the experiences of people who are different than they are (windows);<sup>6</sup> and

**Whereas:** In 1982 in Board of Education v. Pico, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that a school board's decision to remove books from the school library based simply on their content violates the First Amendment's [free speech right](#);<sup>7</sup> and

**Whereas:** Of the 2,532 bans listed in the Index, [96 percent were enacted](#) without following the best practice guidelines for book challenges outlined by the [American Library Association](#) (ALA) and the [National Coalition Against Censorship](#) (NCAC);<sup>8</sup> therefore be it,

**Resolved,** That Free State PTA and its constituent associations support the publishing of books that represent the diverse experiences of all our families, children, and communities and by authors who embody that diversity; and be it further

**Resolved**, That Free State PTA and its constituent associations support an open and clear process within school systems for parents and guardians to provide input on books and media in schools; and be it further

**Resolved**, That Free State PTA and its constituent associations support the perspective that age-appropriate books, programming, and media resources should accurately reflect history, inspire creativity, and encourage responsible civil discourse; and be it further

**Resolved**, That Free State PTA and its constituent associations advocate before legislative bodies, educational institutions, and within print media to support the freedom to read, view and appreciate age-appropriate material within schools, communities, and households; and be it further.

**Resolved**, That Free State PTA and its constituent associations support the perspective that opt-out features for books, media, and other educational materials can contribute to an insular view which could lead to an undesired repeat of history.

<sup>1</sup> <https://pen.org/banned-in-the-usa/>

(Pen America Report, *Banned in the USA: Rising School Book Bans Threaten Free Expression and Students' First Amendment Rights*, What is a School Book Ban, April 2022)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2022>

(American Library Association, State of America's Libraries Report 2022)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/book-bans-and-their-impact-young-people-and-society> (Anti-defamation League, Jan 2022)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/book-bans-and-their-impact-young-people-and-society> (Anti-defamation League, Jan 2022)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/the-importance-of-windows-and-mirrors-in-stories>

(PBS Teachers Lounge, Voices in education: *The Importance of Windows and Mirrors in Stories*, November 2020) <sup>6</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/book-bans-and-their-impact-young-people-and-society> (Anti-defamation League, Jan 2022)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/timeline\\_event/school-board-cannot-ban-library-books/](https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/timeline_event/school-board-cannot-ban-library-books/) (Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, 2023)

<sup>8</sup> <https://pen.org/report/banned-usa-growing-movement-to-censor-books-in-schools/> (*Banned in the USA: The Growing Movement to Censor Books in Schools*, Key Findings, September 2022)