

POLICY STATEMENT ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
BY THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

We support and are in agreement with the philosophy statements contained in:
Academic Freedom (National Education Association)¹
Library Bill of Rights, (American Library Association)

We support the principles of intellectual freedom, which are inherent in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and believe these principles must be protected and preserved to assist the growth of informed and responsible citizens.

We support policies that assure the confidentiality of library records.

We support free access to ideas in a free society and freedom of choice.

We support the establishment of policies and procedures by the legal governing board of a school district which provide for selection of library materials by certificated library media personnel in conjunction with other certificated staff, which will reflect the varied groups in America so that students may develop the ability to form judgments based on full information, and which support the curriculum, as well as encourage growth not only in knowledge, but in literary, cultural, and aesthetic appreciations.

We support selection policies that provide for a wide range of materials appropriate for the user, placing principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice.

We support the establishment of local school board procedures for dealing with concerns of the school community regarding allegedly inappropriate instructional materials in a fair, professional, and timely manner.

We support the right of parents or guardians to monitor the reading, viewing, and listening activities of their own children.

CSLA makes the above statement to make known its position of support of intellectual freedom, and to make known its desire to maintain library media programs with integrity throughout the educational systems of California.

¹ Symons, Ann and Charles Harmon. Protecting the Right to Read: A How-to-do-it Manual for School and Public Librarians. NY: Neal Schuman Publishers, 1995.