



TSTA NEWS

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North East educators want careful review of challenged books, not censorship

North East Educators Association President Adonis Schurmann released the following statement today about North East ISD's review of library books:

The North East Educators Association doesn't want our students exposed to obscene or age-inappropriate material. But we oppose censorship, including the politically motivated efforts at censorship being driven by some state officials on the eve of an election year.

North East ISD has been reviewing about 400 books in our schools that have been flagged as questionable by a legislator who probably has read few, if any, of them. So far, the district has determined that only a handful are obscene or age-inappropriate. With 800,000 books spread across our district's libraries and classrooms, our teachers haven't read all these challenged titles either.

The North East Educators Association is seeking assurances from district administrators that no book is judged obscene or vulgar simply because it deals with a subject, such as race relations or LGBTQ issues, which make some parents or politicians uncomfortable. That would be an abuse of the educational process and a disservice to our students.

We are asking the administration to assure us that no book is judged inappropriate for all our students or age-inappropriate for some students and placed on restrictions or removed from our schools unless a panel of educators and parents make that determination after a careful review of the book.

We support the existing district policy that allows parents to object to their own children checking out specific books from our libraries.