

## Books and Mortar Resource Guide

**Note:** This is an ever evolving list and guide; please check back often for updates! You can make a copy of this for yourself, but you can not edit it.

Have resources to share? Please email them to [info@booksandmortar.com](mailto:info@booksandmortar.com)

### Websites with Information and Resources to Check Out:

<http://www.mimasl.org/>

<http://www.mimasl.org/miself-in-books.html>

<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/toolkit/>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/judy-blume-describes-latest-wave-of-book-bans-and-censorship-as-disgusting-and-fascist>

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2022/10/11/book-bans-michigan-lgbtq/69541902007/>

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned>

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/support/volunteer/intellectual-freedom-teen-council>

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/bookmatch>

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

<https://pen.org/>

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

- Bill Tracker to see what Michigan legislation is being introduced and the MLA's stance on each bill
- Intellectual freedom resources including an explanation of the Miller Test for Obscenity

<https://redwine.blue/>

- Trainings and action items/resources
- Podcast
- Large presence in Michigan currently!

[Southlake Podcast re: Critical Race Theory](#)

## Banned Books Talking Points

### **Instagram/Social Media Accounts to Follow:**

<https://www.instagram.com/redwineblueusa/>

<https://www.instagram.com/schoolboardschool/>

<https://www.instagram.com/Sheshouldrun/>

- <https://www.instagram.com/emilyinyourphone/>
  - She has tons of recommendations in her Moms4L highlight of people to follow.

<https://instagram.com/Runforsomethingnow>

<https://instagram.com/sharonsaysso>

### **Organizations to Consider:**

Sandy Hook Promise–Gun Violence  
Moms Demand Action–Gun Violence  
PFLAG–LGBTQIA+ Support  
The Trevor Project–LGBTQIA+ Support  
Super Majority–Women in Elected Positions  
She Should Run–Women in Elected Positions  
Emily’s List–Women in Politics/Non-profit support

### **Action Items:**

- Email school board in support of social emotional learning, diverse books, classroom libraries and library funding.
- Contact your local elected officials and let them know how important these issues are to you.
  - <https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites>
- Send positive emails to your child’s teacher/teachers in the school, letting them know you are rooting for them–mention how important Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and diverse classroom libraries are to you and your student!
  - *Teachers can use these notes to share with their admin and are helpful in evaluations and “making the case” for SEL and diverse literature.*
  - *Set a calendar reminder to do this a few times a month!*
- Research how books and curriculum is chosen and reviewed in your district.

- *What are the policies for the Board of Education to approve new books? What are the policies for removing books?*
- *Look into books that have been challenged or removed in the past 15 years in your district and ones that are most recently (in past 12 months) banned.*
- Research if your district has a written Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging statement on their website or as part of their district improvement plan.
  - *If so, review the policy and take note of what sorts of values and visions are covered for student and teachers.*
  - *If not, raise some questions with school board members as to what the plan is for ensuring a DEIB statement in the future.*
  - *Offer to sit on the DEIB committee!*
- Research if Pride flags or Pride stickers are permitted in your child's school
  - *Most districts don't have a set written policy on these yet, but there have been lots of challenges in recent years to teachers who display Pride support—see what you can find regarding your district precedent.*
- When you visit your students' school, keep an eye out in classrooms and hallways for posters, flags, stickers, etc that indicate the values of the school and classrooms.
  - *If you notice a teacher displaying clearly political paraphernalia (Blue Lives Matter flags, Trump signs, anything religious in a public school), bring those concerns to a Principal or BOE member.*
- Speak up and ask questions when you hear people questioning teachers, librarians or curriculums in your day to day life—change starts at the local level with people you know and people who care and love you.
- Attend school board meetings regularly. Every month if possible!
  - *School board meetings are where a lot of important stuff happens—attending regularly is a great insight into your district.*
- Speak at public comment at school board meetings.
  - **REMINDER:** *You do not need to have kids or students of your own in the district in order to speak! Public comment is open and limited to 2-3 minutes per comment.*
- Consider running for your local school board.
  - *Joining your school board as an invested member is one of the most powerful ways to support teachers and students.*
- Reach out to teachers at your local district and ask if there are any specific books or materials they need for their classrooms—donate those materials.
- Keyboard warriors rarely win, but keep an eye on your school's "parent's awareness" page and if you see anything targeting specific teachers, curriculum, librarians by name, bring it to the attention of the school administration ASAP.
  - *Teachers do not deserve public slander in online communities and need invested advocates to stand up with them.*