



WEMTA Statement in Support of School Libraries and Librarians

School library programs provide access to a wide variety of essential materials. Libraries led by certified professionals are linked to higher levels of student achievement, and well-stocked school libraries correlate with higher reading scores. Libraries are a place where all students can see themselves reflected or step into another world to gain a different perspective.

- Wisconsin school librarians are professional educators, trained in selecting materials to meet the needs of a broad and diverse community of students. School librarians strive to know learners and assist them in finding books that fit their needs and interests to prepare our students to live in a global society. In addition, the selection of materials for school libraries is guided by district collection development policies and professional standards.
- WEMTA acknowledges that not every book is for every reader, but every reader will find an appropriate book in the school library. Parents have the right to set reading parameters and restrictions for their own children; however, no one person or group has the right to make choices for other students.
- Library collections serve a very different purpose from curriculum and classroom collections. Curriculum materials are meant for all students. The school librarian selects with the individual student in mind and provides materials that are accurate and enhance and extend the curriculum.
- School district leaders should follow their board approved reconsideration policy and procedures when constituents wish to request review of specific materials. Following the established procedure upholds the First Amendment rights and Freedom to Read.

A school library collection is never complete. Therefore, an effective school library is continuously assessed and evaluated by a professional, licensed librarian to ensure that it meets the needs of all members of the learning community. WEMTA stands in full support of our members and affirms their professional expertise in selecting materials and maintaining school library collections.

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