NJASL
New Jersey Association of School Librarians

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE
IN LIBRARIANSHIP
IN LEARNING

S2421/A3446 Freedom to Read Act Becomes P.L.2024,c.96

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The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) is pleased to announce that on December 9, 2024 Governor Murphy signed S2421/A3446, “The Freedom to Act” into law, P.L.2024, c.96. This bill, sponsored by Senators Andrew Zwicker and Teresa Ruiz and Assembly members Mitchelle Drulis, Shavonda E. Sumter, and Herb Conaway and with bipartisan support in both the Assembly and the Senate, ensures that every New Jersey resident continues to enjoy the freedom to read for education and entertainment. This freedom is supported by the Bill of Rights, decades of precedent, and the robust libraries that serve K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and New Jersey communities.

NJASL is grateful for the broad support of the many organizations that contributed to the passage of this bill, including the New Jersey Library Association, New Jersey Library Trustees Association, EveryLibrary, ACLU NJ, Garden State Equality, New Jersey Education Association, the Sikh Coalition, SweepNJ, New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, New Jersey Association of School Administrators, Garden State Coalition of Schools, New Jersey School Boards Association, Sikh Coalition, AAPI-NJ and the NJ League of Women Voters. Thanks, too, to the dozens of individual community members, parents, and children who testified and reached out to their legislators on behalf of the bill.

"The Freedom to Read Act recognizes the professionalism, honor, work ethics and performance of school and public library staff. It promotes libraries as trusted sources of information and recognizes the many roles that libraries play in students’ lives. The bill will protect the intellectual freedom of students as well as acknowledge that school libraries are centers for voluntary inquiry, fostering students’ growth and development. Additionally, we are grateful for the broad coalition of support from so many organizations for this legislation." said New Jersey Association of School Librarians President, Karen Grant.

Additionally, the law provides for examples of model materials selection and reconsideration policies for both public and school libraries that can be adapted according to the needs of their local community. The law will also protect librarians from being sued for doing their jobs and provides recourse for civil action against those who harass them.

WHERE TO DOWNLOAD THE BILL: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/A3446

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) is the only statewide organization for school librarians in New Jersey. NJASL believes that every student in every New Jersey school deserves to be taught by a State certified full-time School Library Media Specialist supported by a resource-rich school library program. School librarians are essential partners in curriculum delivery and college and career readiness. They are leaders in the integration of technology, information and digital literacies, and the professional development for school staff.