OELMA Intellectual Freedom Award
Checklist

Description: The OELMA Intellectual Freedom Award recognizes Ohio school library media specialists and/or other Ohio educators who demonstrate support for the American Library Association's principles of intellectual freedom. Award recipients exhibit a strong commitment to First Amendment values through the active promotion and defense of the Freedom to Read and ALA's Principles of Intellectual Freedom.

Nominee's narrative (500 words) and supporting documentation must provide substantive examples from the Equity strand (p. 5) of *Ohio's Library Guidelines for Librarians* (2021). Each of the topics found under the Equity strand contains one or more guidelines that speak to ALA's principles of intellectual freedom and freedom to read. Select at least one guideline to describe how the Freedom to Read and ALA's Principles of Intellectual Freedom were defended. State the specific guideline used in the examples.

Nominator's narrative (250 words) must provide a substantive example from *Ohio's Library Guidelines for Librarians* (2021) Equity strand (p. 5). Use a specific guideline from the topic "Advocate for Student Privacy and Intellectual Freedom" to describe your nominee's defense of the Freedom to Read and ALA's Principles of Intellectual Freedom.

<u>**Equity**</u>
Each child has access to relevant and challenging academic experiences and educational resources necessary for success across race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, family background or income.
_____ Curate digital resources and tools (7 Guidelines)

1. Work with the district's information technology department to ensure items curated for the library are accessible to each learner.
2. Streamline access to online content and evaluate for age appropriateness.

3. Lead the selection, integration, organization and sharing of digital resources and tools to support transformational teaching and learning in all content areas.
4. Design learning opportunities that require learners to identify, evaluate and illustrate a variety of perspectives.
5. Create inclusive library collections that acknowledge and celebrate diverse experiences.
6. Provide instructional opportunities to empower learners as effective users of information and creators of ideas.
7. Establish and maintain a collection of reading and informational materials in formats that support the diverse developmental, cultural, social and linguistic needs of learners in their communities.

_____ Ensure Equitable Digital Access (7 Guidelines)

1. Provide and advocate for equitable access to collection tools using digital resources, programming and services in support of the district's mission, vision and strategic plan.
2. Enable equitable digital access by providing barrier-free, universally designed environments.
3. Provide experiences with and access to resources, information, ideas and technology for all learners in the school community.
4. Establish and support a digital learning environment that builds critical thinking and inquiry skills for all learners.
5. Advocate and ensure all learners, teachers, staff and school leaders have robust and reliable connectivity and access to current and emerging technologies and digital resources.
6. Provide digital learning tools and resources to communicate and disseminate information to multiple audiences.
7. Encourage learners to become increasingly self-directed as they create digital products that engage them in critical thinking, collaboration and authentic, real-world problem solving.

_____ Invest in, Curate and Maintain Physical Resources and Tools (10 Guidelines)

1. Create inclusive library collections that acknowledge and celebrate diverse experiences.
2. Provide instructional opportunities to enable learners as effective users of information and creators of ideas.
3. Inspire and support reading for both learners and teachers through library collection development.
4. Devise and implement a plan to address knowledge and reading gaps by providing resources within the collection.
5. Use collection analysis, evaluation, research and other techniques to ensure a balanced collection that provides a variety of formats and content reflecting our diverse society.
6. Establish a collection development plan that identifies policies and procedures for the selection, evaluation, acquisition and maintenance of materials to be included in a high quality collection.
7. Provide access to resources located within and outside the walls of the school building (local, state and regional networks).
8. Provide procedures for reconsideration of materials in conjunction with district policy.*
9. Provide leadership and assistance to faculty in instructional design, collection evaluation, library-based technologies, acquisition and use of curriculum-based school library resources.
10. Establish procedures to enable the efficient accomplishment of administrative tasks in the library.

_____ Advocate for Student Privacy and Intellectual Freedom (6 Guidelines)

1. Teach and promote online learner data privacy.
2. Model the ethical use of information, technology and media.
3. Direct learners to use information, technology and media responsibly.
4. Teach learners to evaluate information for accuracy, validity, social and cultural context and appropriateness for their needs.
5. Serve as an educational leader in demonstrating the value of protecting learners' data.
6. Ensure the rights of every learner to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction.*