



Martha Hickson
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The state of censorship

Defending the right to read



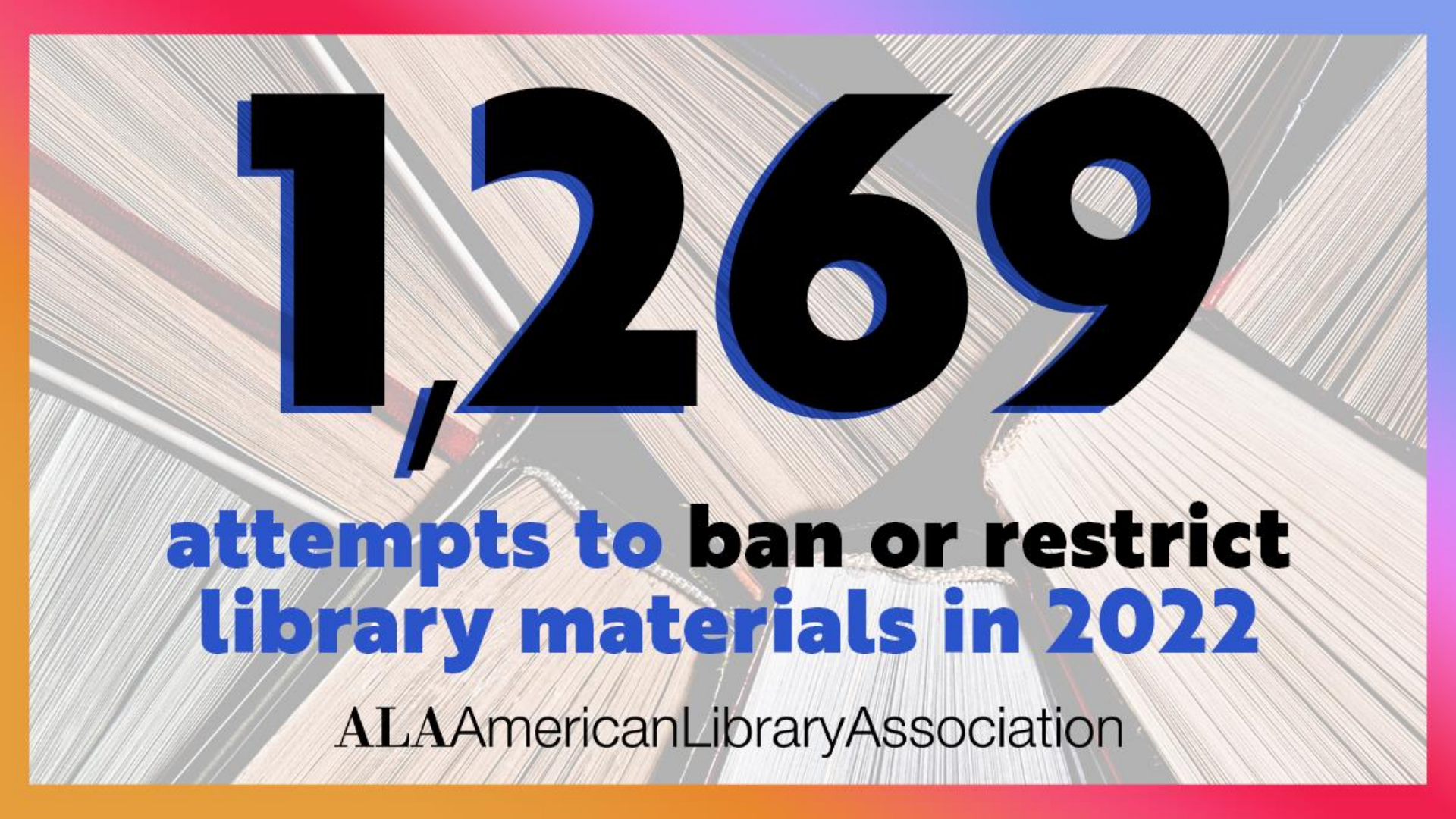
tinyurl.com/ncjwessex

AASL APRIL IS
**SCHOOL
LIBRARY
MONTH**
www.ala.org/aasl/slm



**NATIONAL LIBRARY
WEEK** *April 23–29, 2023*





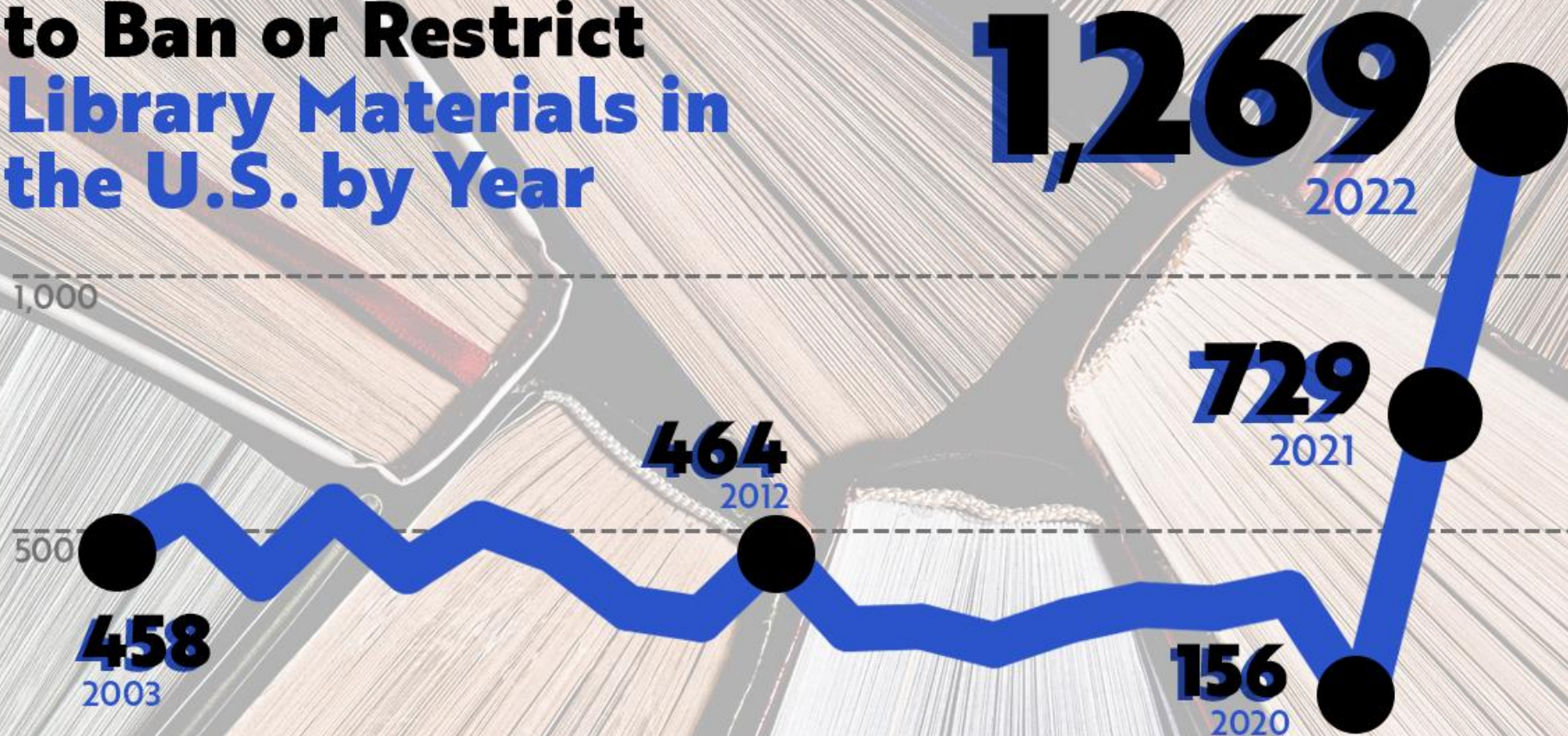
1,269

**attempts to ban or restrict
library materials in 2022**

ALA American Library Association

Number of Attempts to Ban or Restrict Library Materials in the U.S. by Year

ALA American Library Association





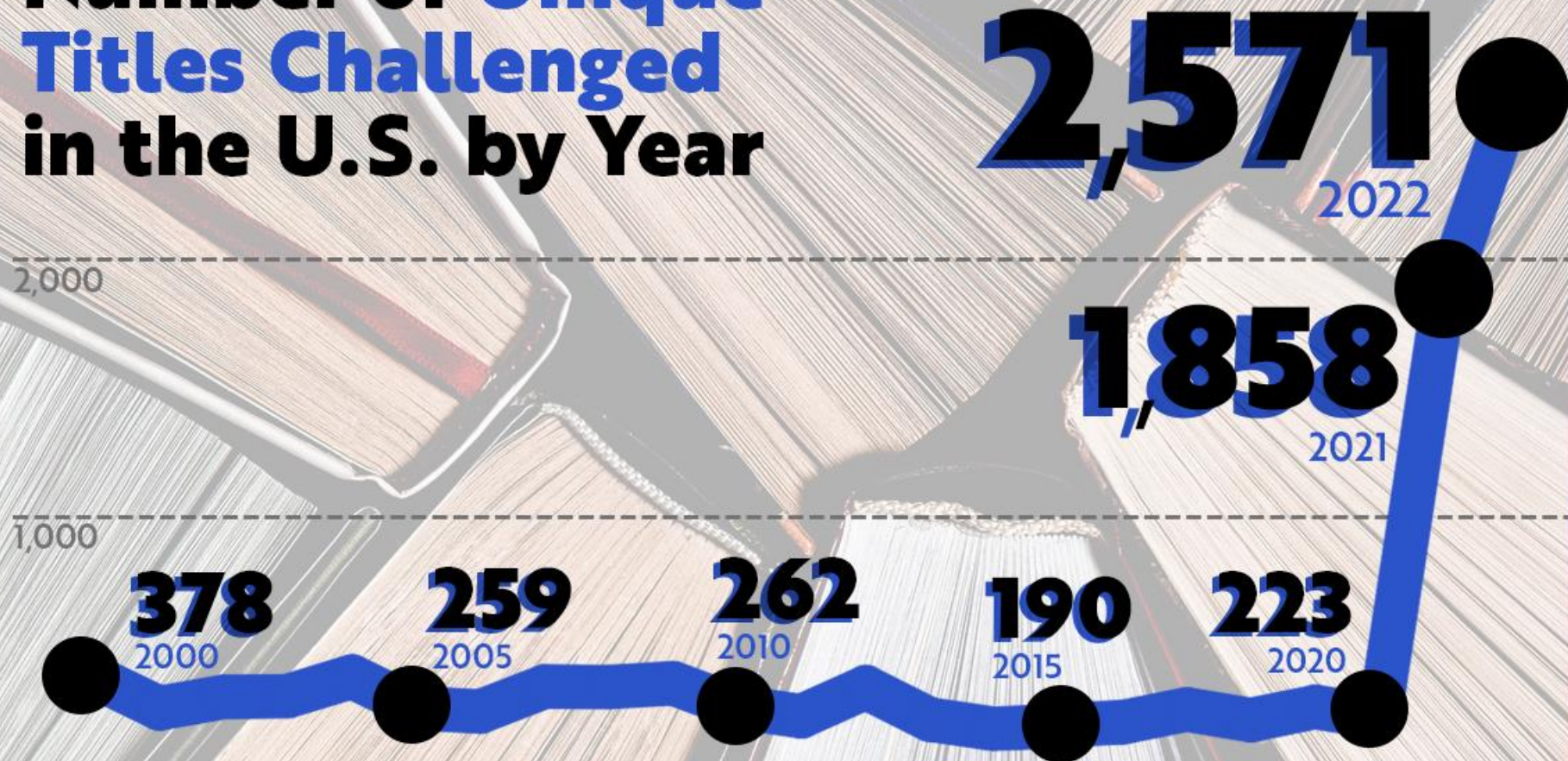
2,571

**unique book titles
targeted in 2022**

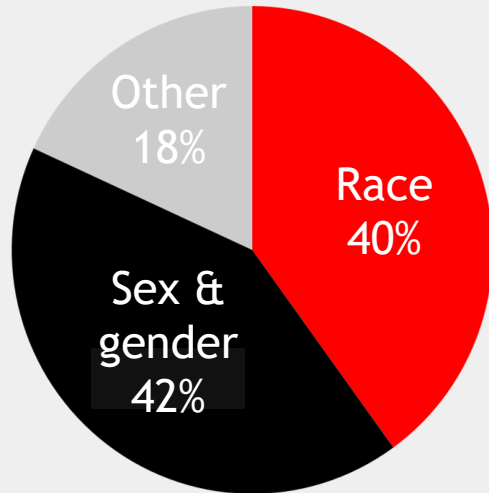
ALA American Library Association

Number of Unique Titles Challenged in the U.S. by Year

ALA American Library Association

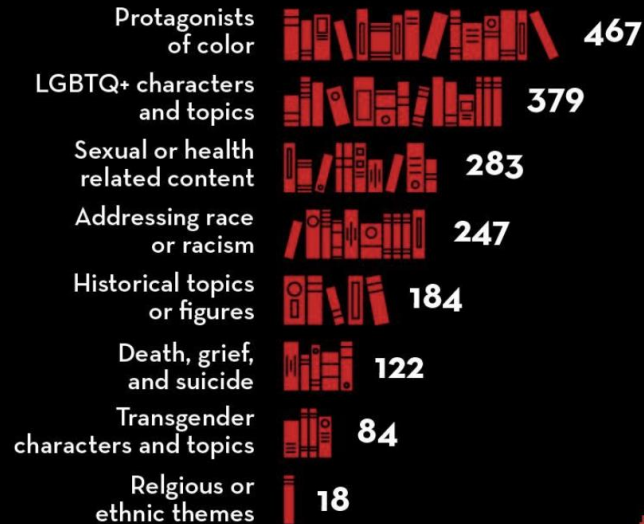


Sexuality & race



Which stories have been banned?

*Many of these categories overlap



Based on PEN America's Index of Book Bans, which documents decisions to ban books in school libraries and classrooms in the United States from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.



90%

of all challenged
books were part
of attempts to ban
multiple titles

ALA American Library Association

STOP
WOKE
INDOCTRINATION

MOMS *for*
LIBERTY

NO
LEFT TURN
in Education







- HB 1557: "Don't say gay"
- HB 7: "Stop woke"
- HB 1467: "Transparency"

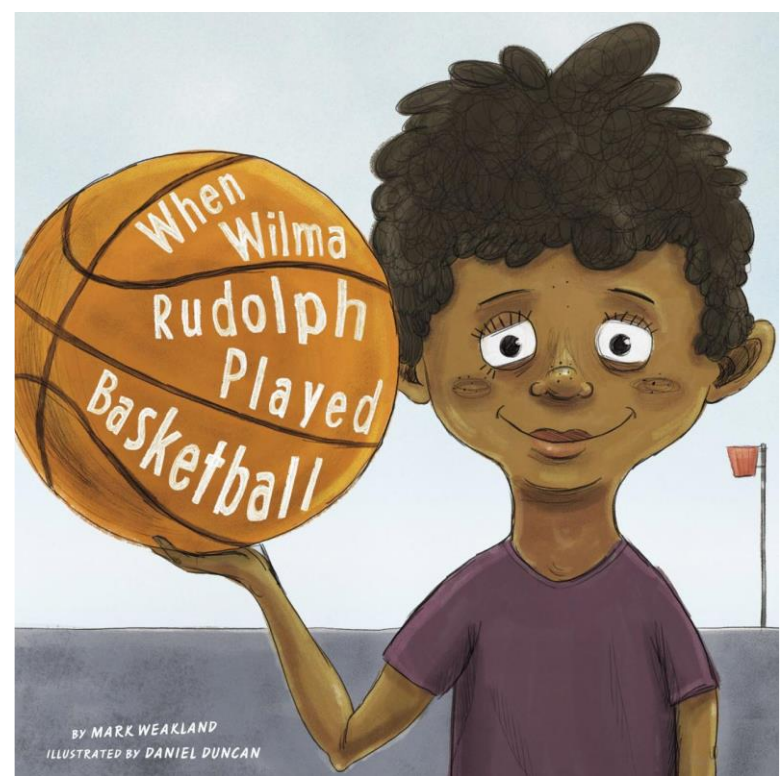
*“We are being asked to **restrict classroom libraries** ... sadly you will need to **remove student access** ... I will be the one with a **felony** if we are found in violation ... I wish I was making this all up.”*

Principal, Duval County

Lots o' laws = Fewer books



- HB 7: “Stop woke”
- HB 1557: “Don’t say gay”
- HB 1467: “Transparency”

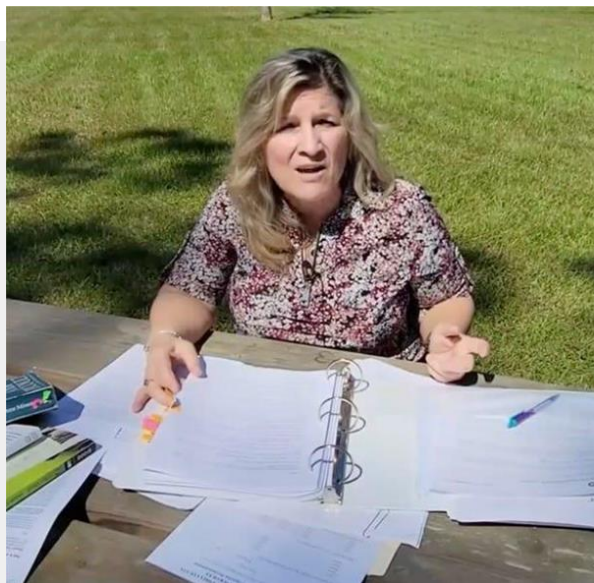


As she grew older, Wilma realized how difficult life was for most African Americans. She saw racial discrimination everywhere.



Segregation meant that black people couldn't do the same things as white people. They had to use separate drinking fountains and bathrooms. They even had to sit at the backs of buses.





- ☐ 13 words
- ☐ 150 books

Image: [Popular Info](#)

REQUEST FOR THE RECONSIDERATION OF EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

School: Northview High School

Requested Initiated By: Vicki Baggett

Telephone: [REDACTED] Address: [REDACTED]

City: Century State: FL Zip code: 32535

Please Check Media Type

☒ Book ☐ Film ☐ Videocassette

☐ Periodical ☐ Filmstrip ☐ Record

☐ Pamphlet ☐ Cassette ☐ Computer Software

☐ Laser Videodisc ☐ Kit Other: _____

Title: When Wilma Rudolph Played Basketball

Author: Mark Weakland

Publisher or Producer: _____

1. Reasons for Objections: opines prejudice based on race

2. Have you read, viewed, and/or listened to the entire educational media to which you object? yes

3. What are the strengths of this educational media? historical athletics

4. Are you aware of the judgment of this educational media by literary and authoritative critics? yes

5. What do you believe is the purpose of this educational media? race-baiting

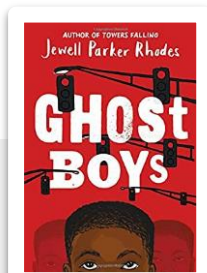
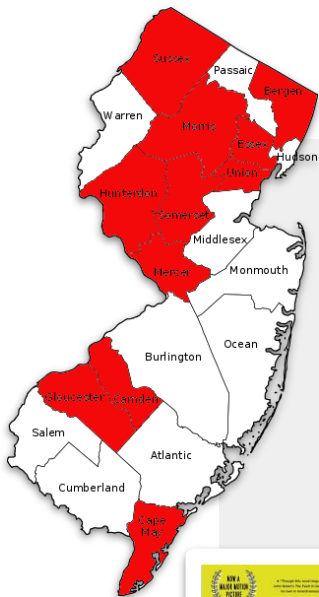
6. For what age group would you recommend this educational media? none

7. Where was the educational media located in the school system? elementary schools

8. On what date(s) was the material utilized for instruction? N/A

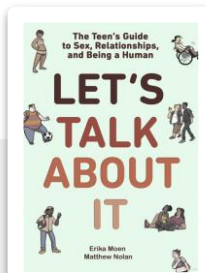
Signature of Complainant: Vicki Baggett Date: 8-24-20

Set 2
33



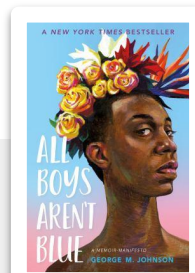
Sparta
Propaganda and
race baiting

Retained



Roxbury
Filled with
sex

Restricted



Old Tappan
Grooming ...
deplorable

Retained



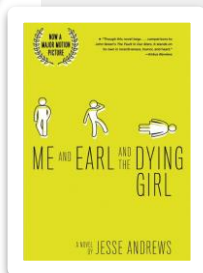
Westfield
Drenched in explicit &
disturbing sexuality

Retained



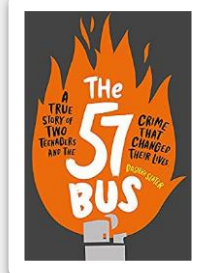
Westfield
It teaches that white
people are bad

Restricted



Readington
Obscene
language

Retained



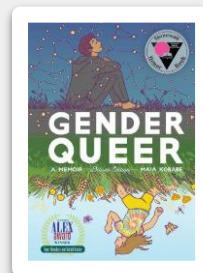
Montgomery
Sexual ...
vulgar content

Retained



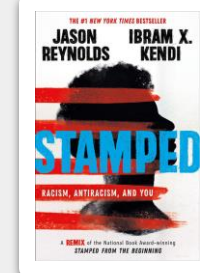
Montgomery
Insulting to the
Catholic faith

Retained



Hamilton Twp
Explicit
content

TBD



Berlin
Divisive,
controversial

Retained



Lower Twp
Explicit language,
racial slurs

Restricted

North Hunterdon

- ❑ 5 LGBTQ+ books
- ❑ Banned Books Week
- ❑ Librarian

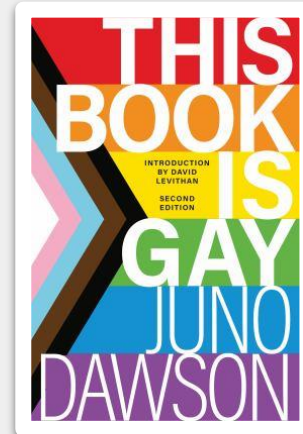
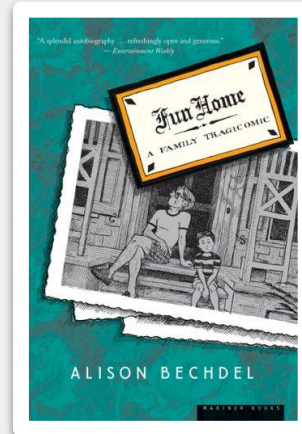
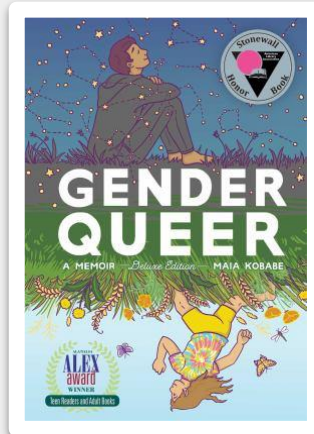
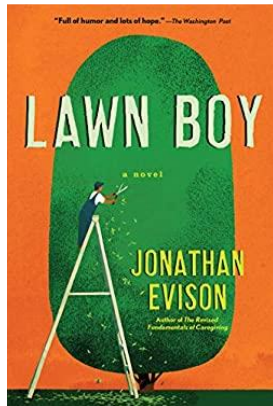
Why some North Hunterdon parents want certain LGBTQ books removed from the school library



Cheryl Makin

MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Oct. 21, 2021 | Updated 4:14 p.m. ET Oct. 21, 2021





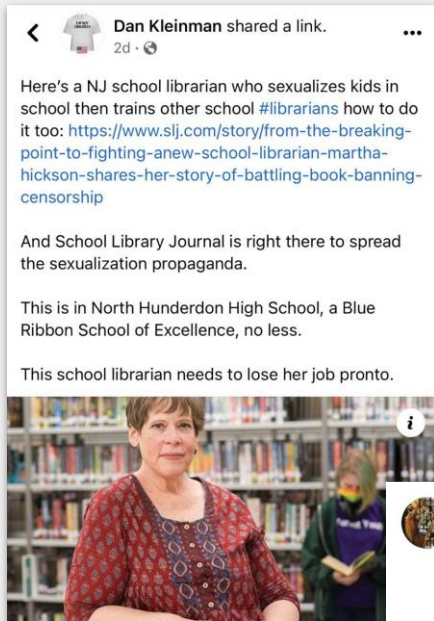
Defamation

What resources do you suggest to provide additional information or other viewpoints on this topic? Look up NJ law on child pornography as well as the federal law. The school and the librarian Martha Hickson are guilty of distribution of pornography to children

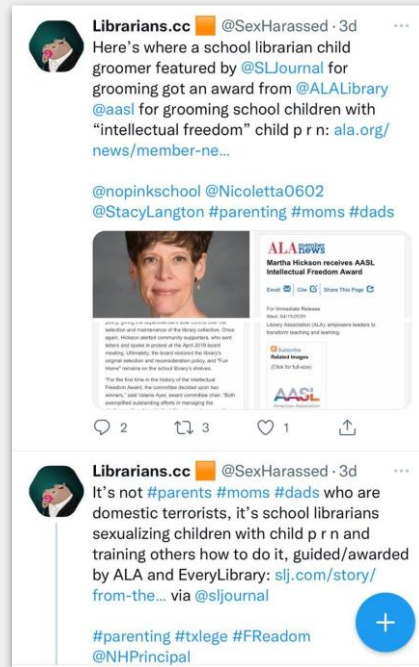
Hate mail

Ms. Hickson, you, especially should be ashamed knowing what is in YOUR library and encouraging our children to read such disgusting, agenda pushing books. I am honestly nauseated by what I have learned in the past month! I would be hard pressed to believe ANY of you would be supportive of your children using the narratives written in many of these books. If you do, you are truly sick and disturbed.

Trolling



- Sexualizes kids
- Child groomer
- Pornographer
- Domestic terrorist
- Disgustingly diabolical
- Should be fired
- Such a pig



A Win Against Censorship North Hunterdon-Voorhees NJ School District

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians and EveryLibrary would like to commend the seven members of the North Hunterdon Voorhees Board of Education who voted down Resolution 012522-9, which called for the removal of This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson.

SHARE



JANUARY 28, 2022

“

*I think the **bar for removing books** from any library **should be very high** ... Both from the report that was given from the committee and from my own personal reading of this book, I think **it falls woefully short** of that high bar for removal ... it's **not even close**.* Robert Kirchberger



**DON'T LET OTHER
PARENTS TELL YOU
WHAT YOUR CHILD
CAN READ**



uniteagainstbookbans.org



tinyurl.com/ncjwes



Martha Hickson
mehickson@comcast.net

thank you!



tinyurl.com/ncjwessex

THE *unnecessary* FIGHT FOR SEX ED

Tazmine Weisgerber | she/her
Training & Technical Assistance Manager
Answer
Tazmine.W@rutgers.edu

Misinformation Campaign Comes to Towns Across America

'Sick and twisted': Nebraska parents fight proposed sex education plan

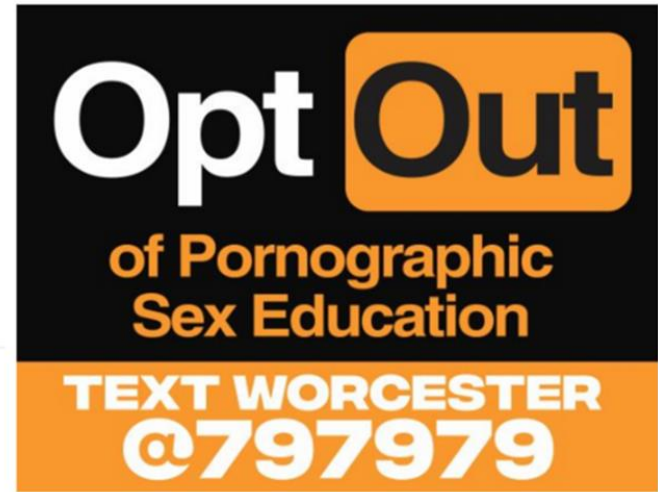
by JILLIAN SMITH, The National Desk | Friday, December 3rd 2021

Pornographic 'Comprehensive Sexuality Education' in Massachusetts Public Schools

By [Mary Ellen Siegler](#) | January 13, 2020, 12:33 EST

Five things to know about sex education in Texas, and the recent fight over instructional materials

The State Board of Education has rejected three sets of health textbooks, aimed at teaching middle and high school students topics such as contraception, STIs and healthy relationships.



(CA) Education Board Approves 'Pornographic' Sex Ed

'Now we are teaching kids how to have a robust sex life.'

By [Katy Grimes](#), May 9, 2019 7:25 am

EDUCATION

Fact-check: Did Austin school board mandate 'pornographic' sex education curriculum?

[Madlin Mekelburg](#) mmekelburg@statesman.com

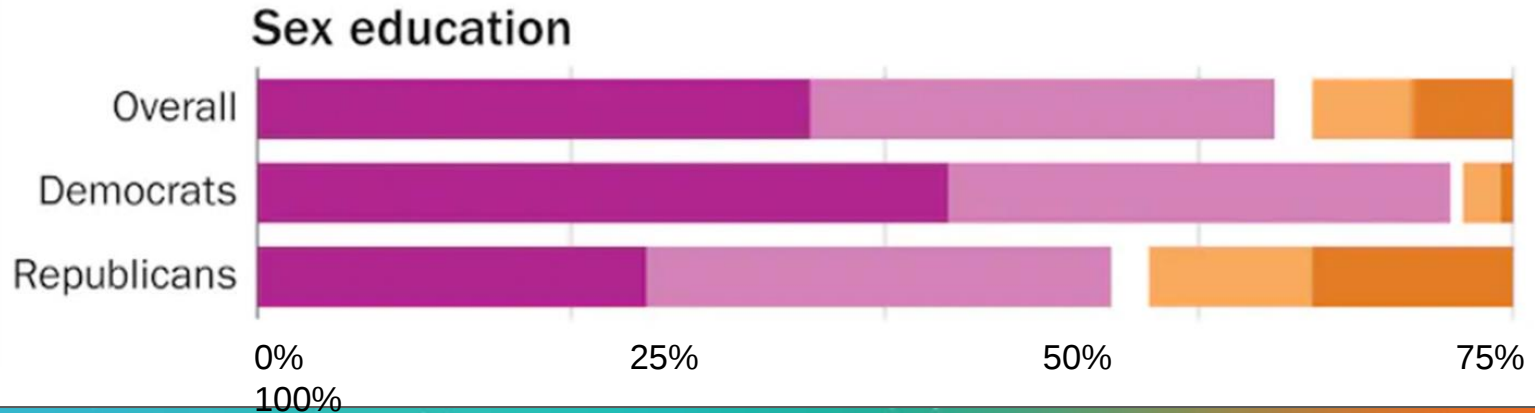
Published 3:38 p.m. CT Nov. 19, 2019

Sex Ed Isn't Controversial

How important is it to teach...

Partisan groups include independents who lean toward the party.

● Essential ● Important but not essential ● Not important ● Shouldn't be taught



New K-2 Standard

2.1.2.PGD.5

List medically accurate names for body parts, including the genitals.

Purpose

Child abuse prevention

Some sex offenders choose to avoid youth who know proper terminology

2.3.2.PS.5: Define bodily autonomy and personal boundaries.

2.3.2.PS.6: Demonstrate how to communicate personal boundaries and show respect for someone else's personal boundaries including friends and family.

2.3.2.PS.7: Identify behaviors that would be considered child abuse (e.g., emotional, physical, and sexual.)

2.3.2.PS.8: Identify trusted adults, including family members, caregivers, and school staff, that you can talk to about situations which may be uncomfortable or dangerous (e.g., bullying, teasing, child sexual abuse.)



“Educating young people about the names of their sexual anatomy at an early age normalizes talking about their bodies and reduces their risk for sexual abuse.”

Goldfarb, E. S., & Lieberman, L. D. (2021). Three Decades of Research: The Case for Comprehensive Sex Education. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 68(1), 13-27.

New K-2 Standards

2.1.2.SSH.1

Discuss how individuals make their own choices about how to express themselves.

2.1.2.SSH.2

Discuss the range of ways people express their gender and how gender-role stereotypes may limit behavior.

Purpose

All individuals feel welcome and included.

New* 3-5 Standard

2.1.5.PGD.4

Explain common human sexual development and the role of hormones (e.g., romantic and sexual feelings, masturbation, mood swings, timing of pubertal onset).

Purpose

To normalize the changes that occur during puberty

*Not actually a new topic in puberty education

NOTE: Parenthesis are simply EXAMPLES.

New 3-5 Standards

2.1.5.SSH.1

Describe gender-role stereotypes and their potential impact on self and others.

2.1.5.SSH.2

Differentiate between sexual orientation and gender identity.

2.1.5.SSH.3

Demonstrate ways to promote dignity and respect for all people (e.g. sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, differing ability, immigration status, family configuration).

Educating young people about the diversity of sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions and creating an inclusive school climate reduces depression, suicidal ideations and attempts, lowers alcohol and marijuana consumption and reduces absences across **ALL identities**.



Birkett M, Espelage DL, Koenig B. LGB and questioning students in schools: The moderating effects of homophobic bullying and school climate on negative outcomes. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 2009;38:989–1000

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2015 & 2017;

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, School Health Profiles (Profiles), 2014 & 2016

answer
sex ed, honestly

New* 6-8 Standard

2.1.8.SSH.9: Define vaginal, oral, and anal sex.

2014 New Jersey Revised Statutes

Section 18A:35-4.20 - Sex education programs to stress abstinence.

2.4.8.B.4: Relate certain behaviors to placing one at greater risk for HIV/AIDS, STIs, and unintended pregnancy.

2.4.6.B.3: Determine behaviors that place one at risk for HIV/AIDS, STIs, HPV, or unintended pregnancy.

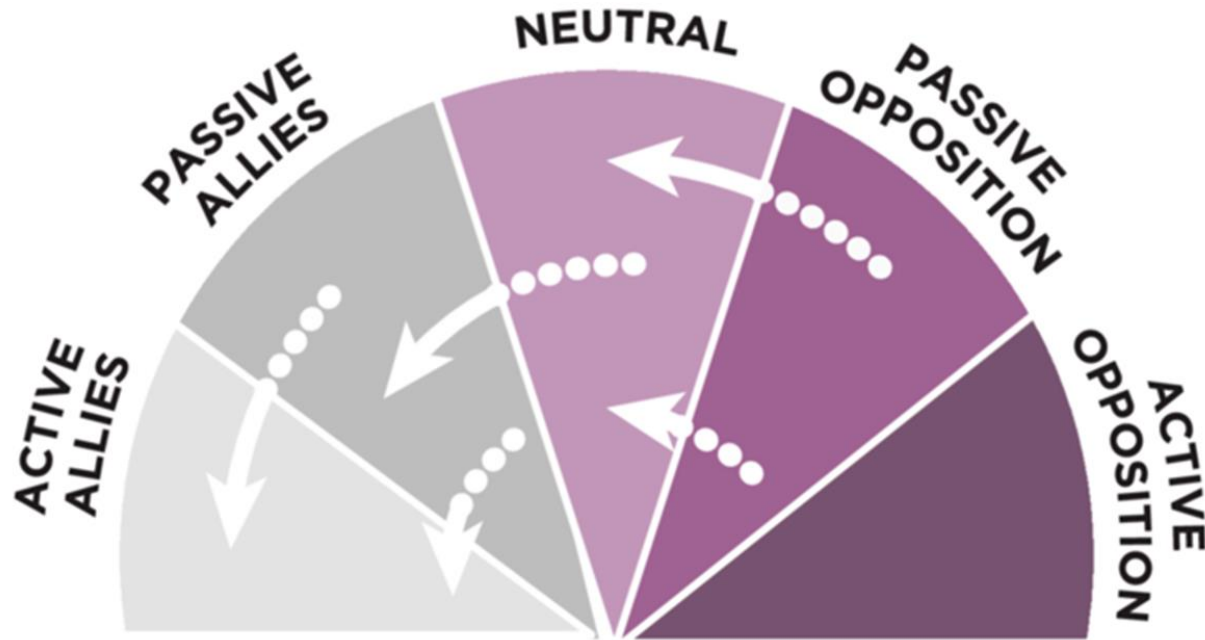
How Can Answer Help?

1. Teacher Training
2. Admin/BOE Presentations
3. Community Presentations on the NJSLS
4. Parent/Caregiver Education
5. Direct Education for Youth

Tazmine.W@Rutgers.edu

What Can YOU Do?

- Reminder: Take off your adult lenses
- Don't repeat misinformation
- Highlight outcomes we all agree on
- Don't respond when you don't know the answer
- Encourage transparency
- Support teacher training
- Focus on moving passive allies and neutral folks



Spectrum of Allies

THANK YOU!

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Training & TA Manager
Answer
Tazmine.W@Rutgers.edu

Learn more:
[Answer.rutgers.edu](https://www.answer.rutgers.edu)
[Sexetc.org](https://www.sexetc.org)

answer
sex ed, honestly



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EDUCATE
COLLABORATE**

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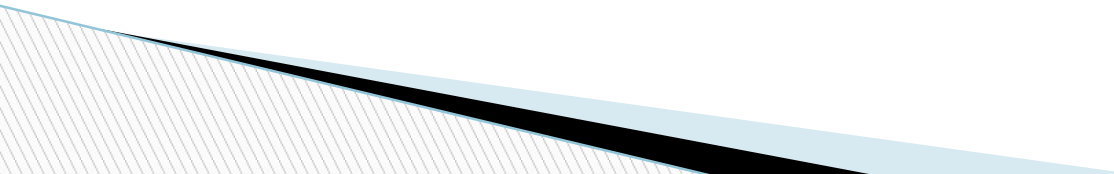
[@njpecoalition](https://twitter.com/njpecoalition)



www.facebook.com/groups/njpec

Protecting Our Public Schools Spring 2023 Update

What is going on in our Schools

- ❖ Well funded & well organized radical organizations are attacking public education.
 - ❖ Using a false “parents rights” narrative.
 - ❖ Using harassment and intimidation to silence those with differing opinions.
 - ❖ Taking over school boards by implementing a disinformation and propaganda campaign to mobilize parents with false conspiracy theories.
 - ❖ Running and funding candidates who comply with their radical agenda.
- 

Why are our school boards being attacked? – The radical strategy

- ❓ The “radicalization” of political parties and rise in power of the extreme right-wing and evangelicals.
- ❓ The “existential threat” to End public education
 - Remove inclusion & diversity from curriculum/libraries;
 - Whitewash “American History” by removing the darker parts, i.e. slavery, racism, decimation of Native Americans, Internment camps.
 - Establish voucher systems and charter schools to remove funding;
 - Eliminate departments of education, any supervision, totally eliminate public schools and re-establish “home rule;”
 - Eliminate teachers union like the NJEA;
 - Gain control of all decisions making;
 - Theocratization of public schools.
 - “Flip the ballot!”
 - “Home rule.”

What groups/individuals are pushing this agenda?

- MAGA Republicans
- Right-wing radical evangelicals and politicized churches
- Dark Money organizations
 - Nationally – Koch brothers foundations, Heritage Foundation, Project Veritas, 1776 Project, Moms for Liberty
 - Locally – New Jersey Project, No Left Turn, NJ Fresh Faced Schools, Center from Garden State Families (Rev. Gregory Quinlan), WERPA and dozens of other local FB pages and groups.

Specific actions being taken by radical groups/individuals

- ❑ Disinformation campaign in print & on-line.
 - CRT, SEL, DEIJ
 - Sexualization of Children
 - Age-inappropriate curriculum
 - Liberal conspiracies
 - “Woke” agenda
- ❑ Divide & Conquer
 - Divide Par
 - Divide Parents & Teacher
 - Divide teachers from their unions
- ❑ Intimate & harass School Board members to get them.
- ❑ Intimidate, denigrate and defame anyone who opposes them
- ❑ Disrupt School Board meetings
- ❑ Use existing cohorts: elected officials & pseudo-experts
- ❑ “Bottom up”

Review and recap of last election

■ Statistical results:

- Moms for Liberty – 50% elected.
- New Jersey Project – 60% elected.
- Incumbents – 40% chose not to run for re-election
- Many incumbents are now resigning after re-election.
- Many voters were looking for information and endorsements on who to vote for but were not able to find it.*
- Many just voted 1,2,3.
- Many decided it was “just politics” and did not even vote.

- *As a general policy, the Coalition does not endorse specific candidates and tries to provide information about all candidates and whether they support our positions on public education.

New radical strategies

- ❑ Continue campaigns to “ban books.” – MFL playbook and “phony review site (booklooks.org); Creating stacked “review committees”; **Obscenity** and **child pornography** allegations.
- ❑ Removal of superintendent, administration & teachers.
- ❑ Standardized test results “blame game.”
- ❑ Pandemic “blame game.”
- ❑ Mental health “blame game.”
- ❑ Backdoor firings of school superintendents, teachers, lawyers, etc.
- ❑ Removing/Modifying Health & Fitness Mandate.
- ❑ Mirror Propaganda – Dark money funding, getting teachers fired, etc.

Responses to new radical strategies

- ❑ Question the divisiveness – Why?
- ❑ Expose their playbook
- ❑ First Amendment & Parents rights
 - Use their own arguments against them – Everyone has the right to speak and decide what their children read. Transparency.
 - NJ School Ethics Commission Advisory Opinions A-02-22 (social Media) & A-12-22 (Mandate).
- ❑ Petition demanding guidance and enforcement to keep “Rogue” boards and board members in check.
 - www.njpecoalition.org/petition
- ❑ Ethics complaints and Petitions to the DOE.

ENGAGE, EDUCATE & COLLABORATE STRATEGY

- Get parents, students, teachers, administrators and other stakeholders **engaged** in the battle we face.
- **Educate** the stakeholders so they have factual information and can distinguish and discredit misinformation.
- **Collaborate** by creating groups in individual districts and by county to grow power bases. Alliances with other like minded organizations so we do not duplicate the work (for example with ATNJ, SWEEP NJ, Defense of Democracy, Garden State Equality, NJEA Council for Honest Education, Save our Schools NJ, Moms Rising, GLSEN)

What can you do:

- ❑ Attend your Board meetings regularly and ask questions. Challenge offensive statement, disinformation and lies.
- ❑ Call, email and visit your State legislators.
- ❑ Call, email and visit government officials.
- ❑ Sign the petition: www.njpecoalition.org/petition.
- ❑ Research the candidates & make sure to vote.
- ❑ Talk to friends and family members.
- ❑ Engage your children!
- ❑ **Join the Coalition & volunteer.**

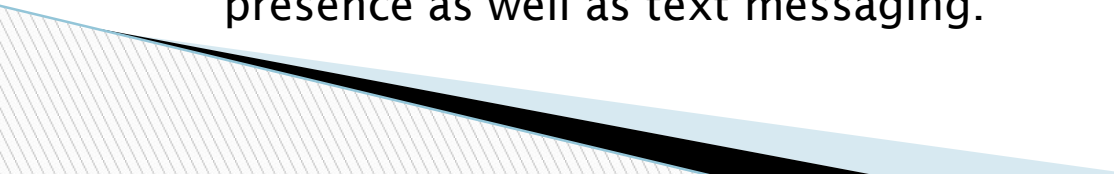
What is the “Coalition?”

- A “Coalition” of educators, administrators, education professionals, municipal leaders concerned parents “collaborative organizations.”
- Totally grassroots and non-partisan.
- To "Protect Our Public Schools" from PACs and "Dark Money," whose ultimate goal is the elimination of public education.
- To prevent disruption and adulteration of our children's education with hate, intolerance and racial bias; to prevent "whitewashing" of American history and the spread misinformation & disinformation; to block the ultimate goal of eliminating public education.
- To maintain inclusivity & diversity in our public schools and curriculum.
- To level the playing field for parents and resident who wish to speak at BOE meetings.

What we need & how you can help?

1. **Municipal Representatives** to monitor activities in their municipal school boards and report back as well as advising when we need a presence at Board meetings in their town.
2. **Members of the “Squadron”** to attend the school board meetings in surrounding towns and lend support because numbers matter!
3. **Letter & Op-Ed writers** – These have an impact and keep the public informed. We need them in print media and local news websites (Tap-into, Patch).
4. **Mentors** to “one-on-one” with a current school board candidate. People who have already run for school board or are current board members or have run successful political campaigns
5. **Legislative Advocates and Lobbyists** – We have a legislative agenda to protect the non-partisan nature of public schools and have submitted proposed legislation. We need people to write/call/email/show up at the offices of our legislators to support our amendments to the NJ School Ethics Act.

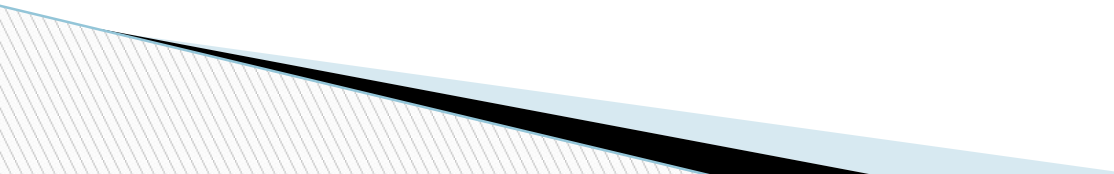
What we need & how you can help?

6. **Keyboard Warriors** – Challenge misinformation when posted on local Facebook pages and in print. Keep track of the new arguments and tactics and challenge iron social media.
 7. **Researchers** to discredit the radical agenda, their outside speakers & their candidates.
 8. **Education Roadshow Presenters** – Experts in their field to help us engage and educate parents at our rolling roadshows, i.e. education professionals, psychiatrists/psychologists, pediatricians, college professors, etc.
 9. **Content Producers** – People skilled in TV & video production, graphic arts, PowerPoint to create PSAs and other campaigns to engage and educate.
 10. **Social Media “Mavens”** – People who can help us create and maintain a robust website, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Telegram, Mastodon, etc. presence as well as text messaging.
- 

Call to Action

- ❓ **Engage Stakeholders** such as parents, students, teachers, administrators, residents, taxpayers and other stakeholders so as to broaden and increase our powerbase. Alert them to the “existential” battle that is taking place in our public schools and with our Boards of Education. Illuminate and illustrate why local school boards and school board elections are important. Spread the word to everyone you know and to local Facebook Groups.
- ❓ **Educate Stakeholders** so they have factual information and can distinguish and discredit campaigns of disinformation, propaganda and conspiracy theories, while gaining the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about the actions of their local school board and their school board candidates.
- ❓ **Collaborate** by creating groups in individual districts, and by county, to grow power bases that appear and speak at local school board elections and remind school board members of their ethical, legal and sworn, under God obligations to every resident, parent and student. Create alliances with other like-minded organizations so we do not duplicate the work and promote our cause in an efficient and effective manner.

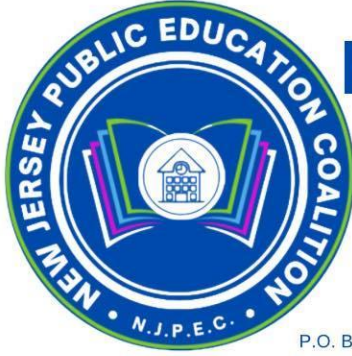
Call to Action (Continued)

- ❓ **Alert Your Legislators** by phone, by email and visits to their offices. Make sure they are aware of what is going on and that public education issues are of great concern to their constituents. Demand that they address the NJPEC “Legislative Agenda” and that they demand action from the Governor, Department of Education and Attorney General to enforce the School Board Code of Ethics, NJ Education Law and the NJ Law Against Discrimination
 - ❓ **Contact Government Officials** by phone, email and visits to their offices. Do not let them sit on their heels while the control of public education is shifting to those with radical agendas who want to eliminate public education. Demand guidance and enforcement.
 - ❓ **Keep Local BOEs in Check** by attending every BOE meeting, asking questions and calling out questionable decisions. File Ethics Complaints and Petitions to the Commissioner of Insurance when necessary to stop rogue Board members.
- 

Wrapping up



- Join at the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/group or the website: www.njpecoalition.org.
- Complete the “Member Registration” form on the website (www.njpecoalition.org) or at <https://bit.ly/3L2LIg0> making sure to indicate the element(s) of the Coalition you are volunteering to work on.
 - Sign the petition at www.njpecoalition.org/petition
 - Since we operate under a LLC entity and we do not currently have 5(c) status or non-profit status, please contribute to the Education Truth Project, our financial sponsor, at this link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/njpec>



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**Thank you for your attention. We
look forward to welcoming you
as a member.**