



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

November 1, 2021

Dr. Dan Troxell
Executive Director
Texas Association of School Boards
12007 Research Blvd
Austin, TX 78759

Dear Dr. Troxell:

A growing number of parents of Texas students are becoming increasingly alarmed about some of the books and other content found in public school libraries that are extremely inappropriate in the public education system. The most flagrant examples include clearly pornographic images and substance that have no place in the Texas public education system.

These parents are rightfully angry.

Parents have the right to shield their children from obscene content used in schools their children attend. They are right that Texas public schools should not provide or promote pornographic or obscene material to students.

Texas school libraries are governed by their respective independent school districts and by standards established by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and approved by the State Board of Education. All are accountable to the State. Unlike classroom textbooks that are reviewed and adopted by the State Board of Education, library books and other classroom resources are to be reviewed at the district level.

Collectively, your organization's members have an obligation to determine the extent to which such materials exist or are used in our schools and to remove any such content. You must also ensure transparency about the materials being taught in the classroom and offered in school libraries. Also, each of our schools should have an appropriate and transparent process to vet library materials before they are used. You have an obligation to Texas parents and students to ensure that no child in Texas is exposed to pornography or other inappropriate content while inside a Texas public school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

cc: Commissioner Mike Morath, Texas Education Agency
Chair Keven Ellis, Texas State Board of Education
Chair Martha Wong, Texas State Library and Archives Commission