

## NOTICE TO HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Moms for Liberty believes that children deserve quality public education free from harmful ideology and overt sexualization. To this end, we would like to bring your attention to objectionable content in Hernando County Schools and encourage your prompt action to bring the district into compliance with Florida law.

Please take a moment to look over the attached content samples for sexually explicit books in HCS libraries. (Note that the sample reports contain no opinion or conjecture -- only direct quotations with corresponding page numbers.) Providing this type of content to children in school violates Florida law and subjects HCS personnel to potential felony prosecution under the following statutes:

- HB 1467 (2022) "K-12 Education" prohibits any material to be used in a classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list which contains content that is pornographic or prohibited under s. 847.012, is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented, or is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used.
- F.S. 847.012 "Harmful Materials" states that an adult may not knowingly distribute to a minor on school property, or post on school property (a) Any picture, photograph, drawing, sculpture, motion picture film, videocassette, or similar visual representation or image of a person or portion of the human body which depicts nudity or sexual conduct, sexual excitement, sexual battery, bestiality, or sadomasochistic abuse and which is harmful to minors; or (b) Any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter however reproduced, or sound recording that contains any matter defined in s. 847.001, explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors.
- F.S. 847.001(7) "Harmful to minors" means any reproduction, imitation, characterization, description, exhibition, presentation, or representation, of whatever kind or form, depicting nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement when it: (a) Predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest; (b) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors; and (c) Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
- HB 1557 (2022) "Parental Rights in Education" protects the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding upbringing of their children and prohibits classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in grades K-3
- HB 1069 (2023) "Education" extends restrictions to grades pre-K through 8 and amends F.S. 1006.28 to provide accountability for library content at the district level.

Florida statute makes clear that the ultimate responsibility for school library content lies with the board.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023:

- F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)1. Each district school board is responsible for the content of all instructional materials and any other materials used in a classroom, made available in a

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school library, or included on a reading list, whether adopted and purchased from the state-adopted instructional materials list, adopted and purchased through a district instructional materials program under s. 1006.283, or otherwise purchased or made available.

These books should be removed from Hernando County Schools immediately. We have additional information about these seven examples as well as other inappropriate books on HCS library shelves, which we will be happy to share.

The Materials Challenge process was a welcome policy addition; However, most challenges will be reactive in nature, i.e., they will be initiated by parents *after* their child has been exposed to the material in question. We recommend a more *proactive* stance, removing the “land mines” of pornography from the paths of children and reducing the risk of litigation against the district.

A full review of library materials should be undertaken to ensure that children are not exposed to harmful content in Hernando County Schools. I would like to volunteer myself and other involved Hernando County parents to participate in the materials review committee. We have extensive, objective content information and a pool of readers ready to help bring HCS into compliance.

School libraries should be places of inspiration, growth, and wonder. Parents have traditionally trusted school media specialists to provide a broad selection of enriching material while using discernment to exclude harmful or inappropriate content. At Moms for Liberty, we envision (a return to) responsibly curated school libraries where children may browse freely, letting their curiosity lead the way.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

In liberty,

Kara Floyd  
Chair  
Moms for Liberty- Hernando

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