



Issue 005

November 2023

Who are we? A growing non-profit with grassroots group originating in Nixa, MO. We are concerned citizens, teachers, and parents of public school students who want to support educational opportunities for ALL who seek them. *What do we do?* We concern ourselves with education related issues in our community. We fight against censorship, and support open choices in education, and for a wide breadth of educational experiences

Educational Intimidation

In recent years, there has been a disturbing rise in education intimidation bills being introduced in Missouri and across the United States. These bills are designed to silence educators, librarians, and students, and to limit the teaching of important and controversial topics.

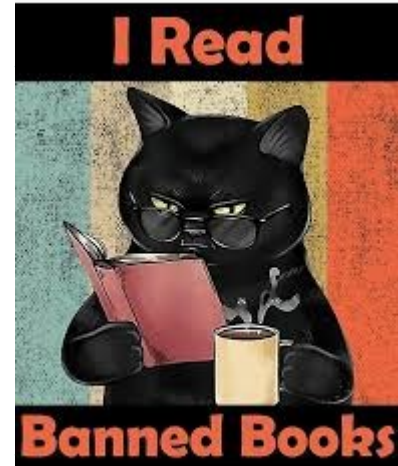
In Missouri alone, over 30 education intimidation bills have been introduced in the past three years.

These bills are not just a Missouri problem. Over 400 education intimidation bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the country since 2021.

Education intimidation bills are harmful for several reasons. First, they create a climate of fear and intimidation for educators, librarians, and students. Educators may be afraid to teach certain topics or to share certain materials with their students, for fear of being punished or fired. Librarians may be afraid to stock certain books in their libraries. And students may be afraid to learn about important and controversial topics, for fear of being ridiculed or harassed by their classmates or parents.

Second, education intimidation bills limit the teaching of important and controversial topics. These topics are often essential for students to understand the world around them and to become informed citizens. For example, bills that prohibit schools from teaching about race and racism can prevent students from learning about the history of the United States and the ongoing impact of racism on American society.

Third, education intimidation bills violate the First Amendment rights of educators, librarians, and students.



Upcoming events

- Each Tuesday: Christian County Commission mtg., 9am, Historic Christian County Courthouse
- November 9: Nixa School Board mtg., 6pm, Faught Administration bldg
- November 28: Christian County Library board mtg., 6pm, location tbd

Senate Bill 190

Senate Bill 190 in Missouri is a bill that would allow counties to grant property tax credits to eligible seniors. Eligible seniors are those who are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, are owners of record of a homestead, and are liable for the payment of real property taxes.

The amount of the property tax credit would be equal to the difference between the real property tax liability on the homestead in a given year and the real property tax liability on such homestead in the year in which the taxpayer became an eligible taxpayer.

The potential problem with this legislation, other than being poorly written is that public school funding comes from property taxes. If implemented, this bill will have noticeable affects on school funding. Which usually leads to programs being cut.

In a state where public schools get most of their funding (58%) from local taxes, this should concern us all!

It will be up to the county commission to decide if/when to implement this bill. If this is something you feel strongly about, please reach out to the [Christian County Commission](#).

Legislation

Missouri congress men and women will begin pre-filing bills in December. It's sure to be a lively session, with numerous bills pertaining to education. Stay tuned!

Our Socials



In The News

[The Washington Post](#)

[Springfield Daily Citizen](#)

[The New Yorker](#)

[PEN America](#)

[Spectrum News](#)

How you can help

No matter what your comfort level, EVERYONE can contribute to our movement somehow. Some ways to get involved are:

- * Attend a local board or council meeting
- * Email school board members and legislators regarding intellectual freedom
- * Build or donate to a little free library
- * [Donate to us](#)