



December 6, 2021

Dear Katy ISD Parents/Guardians and Staff,

During recent weeks it has been brought to our Board and administration's attention that some campus library collections contain books that do not align with Board policy, nor our values as a school district. Katy ISD Board Policy EF Local states that school library shelves will exclude any reading material defined as "pervasively vulgar." The Board of Trustees and I stand by this policy and firmly believe that there is no place for books that contain pervasively vulgar content in Katy ISD libraries. It is our expectation that books within our collections are age appropriate for the students and families we serve.

Please know I understand the concerns this issue has caused. Parents have questioned how certain books have been accessible for check-out from Katy ISD libraries. The answer is for many years, Katy ISD, like many other school districts, has relied upon the recommendations of school library journal reviews to navigate and screen the thousands of book options available to school districts each year. However, we realize the process that was utilized in previous years to make library selections has failed. Therefore, Katy ISD is re-evaluating this process and determining additional protocols to ensure library resources deemed pervasively vulgar remain inaccessible via our District libraries.

Our administration and library teams are working toward establishing a plan that accomplishes two goals: 1) an improved process for reviewing all current Katy ISD selections of young adult literature that includes the removal of any book that meets the definition of pervasively vulgar as outlined in Board Policy EF Local, and 2) a selection process that ensures that future library book purchases do not contain material that is pervasively vulgar. Through an ongoing internal review, a handful of books identified thus far have been found to clearly violate Board policy. These books have been removed and are no longer included as instructional resources within District libraries and classrooms.



Beginning on Friday, December 10, parents are encouraged to access the Katy ISD "Partner with Parents Online Book Review" icon located on the Katy ISD website homepage to request an immediate internal review of books that may violate the pervasively vulgar standard established by [Board Policy EF \(Local\)](#). Questions regarding the "Partner with Parents Online Book Review" process, or other concerns regarding District instructional resources may be

directed to bookconcerns@katyisd.org. I assure you District personnel will be in contact to provide information regarding the concerns and assistance with the new process.

It is our job as a school district to ensure no child is exposed to pervasively vulgar content through books available in Katy ISD campus libraries. Likewise, it is my commitment to ensure the District is taking the matter seriously and putting into action the plans that resolve the issues for which we are all concerned.

I truly appreciate your patience throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Ken Gregorski, Ed.D.
Superintendent