MASL Supports School Libraries in their Efforts to Provide Diverse Reading Choices for all Students 11/30/2021

The Maine Association of School Libraries (MASL) stands behind the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights¹ which “affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas.”

MASL feels strongly that Maine school library programs should be built on Maine Reading Standards² and Maine School Library Standards³ “to help students become competent consumers of a wide variety of texts in diverse forms.”

MASL believes strongly in the Freedom to Read.⁴ “The First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees all individuals the right to express their ideas without governmental interference, and to read and listen to the ideas of others.”⁵

MASL believes that every child deserves access to books and reading material that represent the world we live in. Books not only serve as mirrors, reflecting the reader’s identity, they also act as windows into other lives and worlds.⁶ Books allow students, parents, and teachers a way to discuss difficult topics.

MASL denounces the removal of books from school libraries solely on the basis of the ideas they contain. While parents have every right to limit the reading choices of their own child, they do not have the right to limit the reading choices of all students.

MASL stands behind the professionalism of our trained librarians and library staff to follow school policy in selecting books for their school library collection.

MASL believes schools must follow their policies, not only for maintaining a strong library collection, but also in accordance with the district’s approved procedures for hearing complaints.

MASL stands with the American Library Association in opposition to widespread efforts to censor books.⁷

For support, please reach out to MASL (maslibraries@gmail.com) or ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif).

¹https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill
²https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/content/ela/standards/reading
³https://maslibraries.org/Maine-School-Library-Standards
⁴https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement
⁵https://www.ftrf.org/
⁷https://knowledgequest.aasl.org/the-american-library-association-opposes-widespread-efforts-to-censor-books-in-u-s-schools-and-libraries/?fbclid=IwAR0EGO1BP-qlojCQN9WqU_gvS4-I1dJ_bd01Z332UBAebn d4ySveQLX_-H0