

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

I am pleased to share with you today the Texas Education Agency's model local school board policy, developed in response to your letter to TEA on November 6, 2021, which will appropriately address obscene content that may be found in Texas public school libraries. As you noted in your letter, there have been several instances recently of inappropriate materials being found in school libraries. This is unacceptable and the students of Texas should not be exposed to this harmful content in their local schools. After working closely with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Chair of the State Board of Education over the last several months, this model local school board policy will serve as a helpful guide to school boards as they create the policies for their school district libraries.

School boards can choose to adopt policies that define procedures and processes used within their school systems in a host of operational areas. Statute provides for significant local control in how these policies address the selection of instructional resources, including library materials. TEA's model local school board policy can be adopted by school boards to establish strong procedures related to the selection, review, and transparency of library materials that emphasize the rights of Texas parents. The TEA model policy also explicitly references the standards regarding inappropriate and harmful content for students as defined by the Texas Penal Code and the federal Children's Internet Protection Act.

This model policy will be shared with every school system in the state.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Yours in Service,



Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education