

Good afternoon.

This response is to address the portion of your request (PRR#158-2022) that was an inquiry as to any challenges or book removals this year. In Santa Rosa County, we have been and will continue to be in the business of parent empowerment and transparency in our libraries. We support the efforts of HB 1467 to increase the transparency of recommended and required readings and the requirement that book selections are to be made by a certified library media specialist.

- We have not received any formal challenges or removal of any literary works (library or curriculum) during the 21/22 school year.
- We received a request via email dated October 26, 2021 that was a challenge based on the Florida Citizens Alliance (FCA) in their “2019 Objectionable Materials Report: Porn in Florida Public Schools.” This request has not been formally made.
- Our school Board policy 4.30 (Challenged Materials) outlines that “Any citizen may file a complaint with a school or the Superintendent concerning the use of instructional materials. Instructional materials being questioned shall not be removed from use until the grievance procedures have been completed.”
  - School Board Policy 4.30 governs the handling of challenged materials in our district. It states that, “A parent, as defined by Florida Statutes, may object to his/her child’s use of a specific instructional material or an adult student may object to the use of a specific material in his/her instructional program. The parent or adult student may request a conference with the teacher or media specialist at the school.”
  - The first step, then, is for you to schedule a meeting with the school library media specialist at the school where your child(ren) attend(s). If the issue is not resolved with the school library media specialist, you may request a meeting with the principal to discuss the use of the material. If you are not satisfied with the explanation of the principal and desire to initiate a district-level appeal, you must submit a Checklist for Citizen’s Request for Re-Evaluation of Instructional Materials (form SR900716) and Citizen’s Request for Reevaluation of Instructional Materials (form SR900717) for each title you are challenging to the principal at your child’s school. Instructional materials being challenged shall not be removed from use during the grievance process.