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DPI QUICK NOTE



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A BILL OF RIGHTS  
FOR THE  
SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MEDIA CENTER

IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
1986

DPI QUICK NOTE 1

A BILL OF RIGHTS  
FOR THE  
SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

By Betty Jo Buckingham

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It seems appropriate to restate a belief in quality library media services as a foundation and integral part of the entire school program at a time that the need for excellence or quality in education is being emphasized. The following statement was prepared by the editor [of Growth Notes] and offered for your use.

A BILL OF RIGHTS  
for the  
School Library Media Center

We affirm that all school children should be provided with quality library media centers and programs within their buildings with adequate professional information and ideas guided by the following basic policies:

1. Books, periodicals, audiovisual and computer materials and other library resources, facilities and staff should be provided to support the school's curriculum and to challenge,

interest, enlighten and inform the students and faculty.

2. The selection of materials on controversial issues should be directed toward maintaining a balanced collection representing various views. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background or lifestyles of those contributing to their creation.

3. School library media collections should include materials which foster respect for women and for ethnic groups, handicapped, aging and other minority groups, and which acknowledge the contribution of such groups, emphasizing conflict resolution.

4. School districts should resist censorship by providing board adopted selection policies and procedures statements which provide guidance for selection and weeding, and an appropriate review process in case materials are challenged. They should refuse to abridge the process at the instigation of groups or individuals.

5. School library media specialists should work with other faculty members to the end that students are taught the values of intellectual freedom and the ultimate consequences of censorship.

6. No students should be denied access to the library media center because of their origin, background, views, or behavior in another location. No library media center should be used for detention or punishment for behavior in another location.

7. All teachers, regardless of subject matter, distance, viewpoint, or personal relationship with the library media specialist, should have adequate access to the library media center and should be encouraged to make use of it for themselves and their students.

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