

**NATIONAL
COALITION
AGAINST
CENSORSHIP**

**KIDS'
RIGHT
TO READ**

December 15, 2021

Board of Education Members
Community High School District 99
6301 Springside Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Re: Book challenge procedures

Dear Board members:

The National Coalition Against Censorship is an alliance of national nonprofit groups dedicated to protecting freedom of expression. We have been following recent news reports about book challenges in your district and are writing to offer assistance in helping the District to update its challenge regulations.

Book challenges are often highly contentious and emotional, and the District's publicly available regulations do not appear to be designed in a manner which assures that all parties feel that they have been heard and respected. We recommend revising policies so that book challenge decisions are based on objective criteria which focus on the educational needs of students. Sound decisions should not fall victim to political pressure or hostility to the viewpoint or subject matter of challenged materials.

We have extensive experience assisting districts in developing policies which meet those goals. We have attached for your information NCAC guidelines for developing book challenge regulations, which includes several sample regulations from districts across the country.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Finan
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship

A project of the National
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