



PARENT EDUCATION

What is in the school library?

November 2023

This document will help you answer the following questions:

- Are there *really* offensive books in the school library?
- How do I look up books in the school library?
- Offensive books are in the school library; what now?


ARE THERE *REALLY* OFFENSIVE BOOKS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY?

YES! There are books in all Hamilton County public school libraries that most parents would consider obscene, age inappropriate, and/ or sexually explicit. This includes elementary, middle, and high school libraries and classrooms. Scholastic book fairs are now offering materials that many parents would also find offensive and highly inappropriate.

In July 2021, in an effort to build community awareness, mothers and grandmothers read to the Carmel Clay School Board from several explicit and age-inappropriate books found in Carmel Clay elementary, middle and high school libraries. This phenomenon of parents, pastors, and community members reading to school boards from age-inappropriate books has now become a regular occurrence nationwide in an effort to expose what is being offered to children.

Due to parent outcry and building public awareness, last spring, Indiana's legislature responded with HB1447, the Education Matters bill, which Governor Holcomb signed into law.

The school library portion of HB1447 states that INDIANA PUBLIC SCHOOLS must do three things:

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1. Schools must provide to the public a catalog of what is available in their libraries.
 2. Schools must provide a grievance process in place for parents, guardians, and the community to evaluate the materials by the next public meeting.
 3. Schools must not make available to minors materials deemed obscene or harmful. A person who knowingly disseminates these materials commits a Level 6 felony.

MISINFORMATION CONTROL - A FEW WORDS ABOUT BOOK 'BANNING'

Moms for Liberty **DOES** support the process of challenging and removing books in school and classroom libraries that are age-inappropriate, harmful, obscene or contain sexually explicit content for children to access without parental consent and/or is in violation of the law. **Moms for Liberty DOES NOT support the banning of books, which would mean no longer accessible for purchase. Parents who want their children exposed to these books can purchase them for their home library.**



WHAT OBSCENE BOOKS SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

PARENTS ARE WAKING UP and disputing books/materials accessible to children in schools nationwide, including Hamilton County. According to PEN America’s annual report, there was a 33% increase in removing children’s access to harmful books in the 2022-2023 school year. This was due to parents and communities voicing their concerns and filing complaints. The report went on to say that parents greatest concern was children’s access to books that explored sexuality.

Searching for books can be a daunting task. Below we have a list of books that will give you a starting point. Each respective title is linked to its report on www.ratedbooks.org. Here you can read book overviews including concerning content and page number references.

- [Gender Queer: A Memoir](#), Kobabe
- [All Boys Aren’t Blue](#), Johnson
- [The Bluest Eye](#), Morrison
- [Out of Darkness](#), Perez
- [Flamer](#), Curato
- [The Hate U Give](#), Thomas
- [Crank](#), Hopkins
- [Tricks](#), Hopkins
- [Lawn Boy](#), Evison
- [This Book is Gay](#), Dawson
- [The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#), Alexie
- [Thirteen Reasons Why](#), Asher
- [Me and Earl and the Dying Girl](#), Andrews
- [Sold](#), McCormick
- [It’s Perfectly Normal](#), Harris
- [Looking for Alaska](#), Green
- [The Handmaid’s Tale \(graphic novel\)](#), Atwood
- [Milk and Honey](#), Kaur
- [The Sun and Her Flowers](#), Kaur
- [Homegoing](#), Gyasi
- [Jesus Land](#), Scheeres
- [Not that Bad - Dispatches from Rape Culture](#), Gay
- [The Infinite Moment of Us](#), Myracle
- [L8r G8R](#), Myracle
- [Breathless](#), Niven
- [What Girls Are Made Of](#), Arnold
- [Blankets](#), Thompson
- [Melissa](#), Gino

Click on title to learn more about the book

www.ratedbooks.org



HOW DO I LOOK UP BOOKS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY?

Log in and search your Destiny Discover™ collection
Find your school to start your search

<https://www.destinydiscover.com/aasp/ui/pick/pick>

Click OR Scan



State or Province:
Indiana (IN) ▼

Districts in Indiana (IN):
Noblesville School District, Noblesville, IN

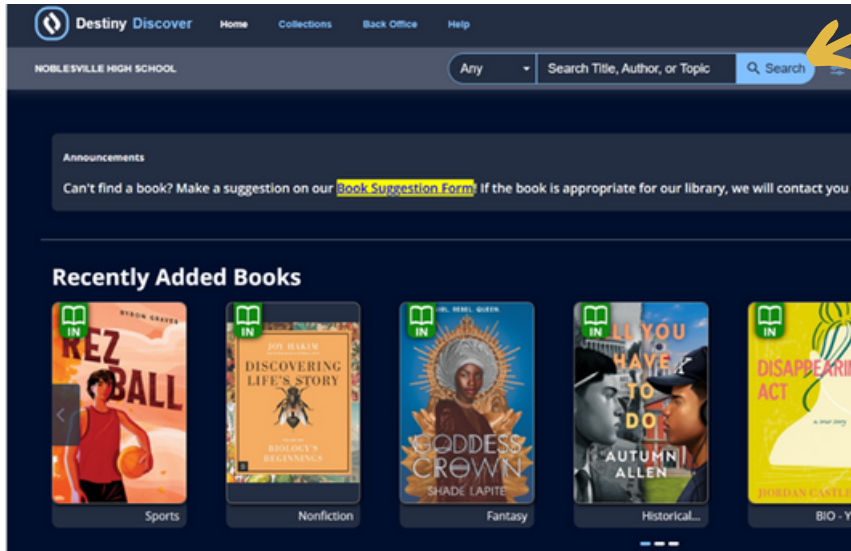
Schools in Noblesville School District, Noblesville, IN:
Search your school's name ⓘ

Go!

1. Select Indiana (IN)
2. Fill in your school district
3. Fill in your school

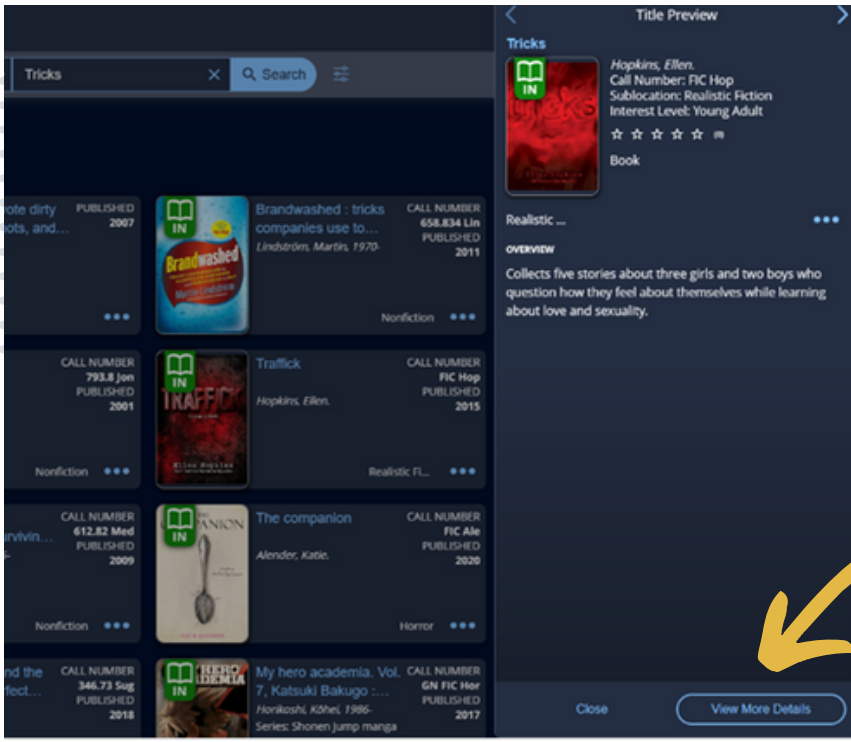


HOW DO I LOOK UP BOOKS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY? *continued*



Search book title, author, or topic

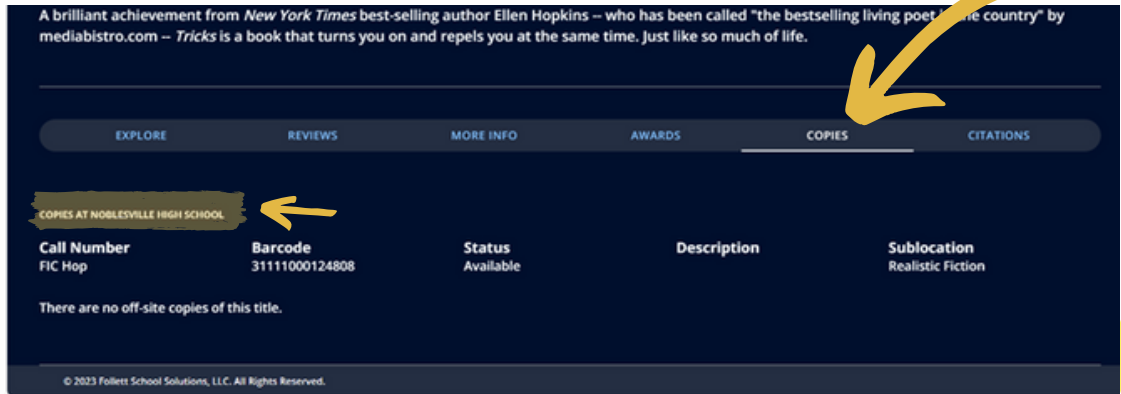
PRACTICE EXAMPLE
Search topic: "Sex instruction for teenagers"
Carmel High School has several books.



Tricks, Ellen Hopkins

SUMMARY OF CONCERNS
This book contains sexually explicit excerpts involving minors. There are also excerpts containing explicit child rape and abuse; illegal drug abuse; graphic violence; underage alcohol consumption; and adult and child prostitution.

Click "View More Details"



Select "COPIES"
To confirm copies are in the school library.
"Off-site" copies are books located at other district school libraries.

As of today, this book is in Carmel High School



OFFENSIVE BOOKS ARE IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY; WHAT NOW?

The process of submitting a GRIEVANCE to the school is much like going to the dentist: we procrastinate, moments of dread, and many will weigh the consequences of action versus inaction. I have filed numerous GRIEVANCE requests, I promise it gets easier each time, it can be rewarding, and it is even empowering. As community members begin to work together with our elected school board officials, parents will regain control over what their children are exposed to, which is well worth the discomfort of submitting a little paperwork.

The process to file a GRIEVANCE is a little different by school district and policies are ever changing. Therefore, we recommend you:

1. Contact your respective school board members, see email addresses below.
2. Provide the name of the book, and the supporting documents found at www.ratedbooks.org.
3. Request that they please respond immediately with the district BOOK/ MATERIAL GRIEVANCE POLICY and any SUPPORTING FORMS for you to complete.

Carmel Clay Schools

- Board email - ccsboard@ccs.k12.in.us
- Katie Browning - kbrownin@ccs.k12.in.us
- Louise Jackson - ljackson@ccs.k12.in.us
- Jennifer Nelson-Williams - jnelsonw@ccs.k12.in.us
- Kristin Kouka - kkouka@ccs.k12.in.us
- Greg Brown - gbrown@ccs.k12.in.us

Hamilton Heights

NOTE - HH does not list their school board email addresses on their website. But Ben Lehman kindly provided his to include in this document.

Ben Lehman - blehman@hhschuskies.org

Sheridan

- Tyler Henning - thenning@sheridan-schools.org
- Nancy Boone - nboone@sheridan-schools.org
- John Hunt - jhunt@sheridan-schools.org
- Kim Zachery - kzachery@sheridan-schools.org
- Dan Fleming - dfleming@sheridan-schools.org

Hamilton Southeastern

- Dawn Lang - dlang@hse.k12.in.us
- Dr. Juanita Albright - jalbright@hse.k12.in.us
- Tiffany Pascoe - tpascoe@hse.k12.in.us
- Suzanne Thomas - stthomas@hse.k12.in.us
- Ben Orr - borr@hse.k12.in.us
- Sarah Donsbach - sdonsbach@hse.k12.in.us
- Sarah Parks-Reese - sparksreese@hse.k12.in.us

Noblesville

- Dr. Joe Forgey - joe_forgey@nobl.k12.in.us
- Christi Crosser - christi_crosser@nobl.k12.in.us
- Stephanie Lambert - stephanie_lambert@nobl.k12.in.us
- Laura Alerding - laura_alerding@nobl.k12.in.us
- Misti Ray - misti_ray@nobl.k12.in.us

Westfield

- Bill Anderson - andersonb@wws.k12.in.us
- Amber Willis - willisa@wws.k12.in.us
- Mike Steele - steelem@wws.k12.in.us
- Jimmy Cox - jimmycox@wws.k12.in.us
- Rebecca Ogle - ogler@wws.k12.in.us

**"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."**

--Dr. Seuss

Questions? Please email us at Moms4LibertyHamilton@gmail.com