



For Immediate Release
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Moms for Liberty - Duval Discovers DCPS books on “Not Approved List” are Still in Public School Libraries in Violation of State Law

Jacksonville, FL – Moms for Liberty – Duval has reviewed the Duval County Public Schools “Not Approved List” and discovered that, according to the card catalog, numerous copies of these books still remain in school libraries in violation of state law.

Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 1467 which became law on July 1, 2022. Under this law, all books in school libraries must be reviewed by a certified media specialist. On October 19, 2022, the Florida State Board of Education extended the law to include classroom libraries. All certified media specialists were required to take training provided by the Florida State Board in January 2023.

DCPS indicated on their website that the review process yielded titles that would not be used in Duval County public schools because “the content of these books could be construed to be in violation of Florida law.” DCPS has a list of the nineteen non-approved books on their webpage. DCPS reviews for the following: material which could be considered pornographic, material that might describe a person as “inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive...solely by virtue of his or her race or sex,” and material should be appropriate for the grade level and age group. Some of those books included on the list include Tricks by Ellen Hopkins, Forever by Judy Blume, Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher, and The Truth About Alice by Jennifer Matheieu, among others. Ultimately, all of these titles were “vetted” by DCPS. Back in January 2023, Duval County made national news for removing books from school libraries for a formal review and there was a video that went viral showing empty bookshelves in a local school.

A search on DCPS’s Follett Destiny website revealed that there were copies of many of the books in on the “Not Approved List” still in the libraries at various schools. There were 3 copies of Almost Perfect, 1 copy of Beloved, 1 copy of Dreaming in Cuban, 5 copies of Forever, 25 copies of Gross Gods, 31 copies of Killing Mr. Griffin, 1 copy of Outlander, 7 copies of The Hate U Give (2 were checked out at the time of review by students), 11 copies of The Hate U Give were “lost” at Lavilla School of the Arts Middle School, 3 copies of The Truth About Alice, 16 copies of Thirteen Reasons Why, and 1 copy of Tricks. A lot of these books have very graphic sexual content and there are summaries of the content at www.booklooks.org for further review.

Chapter Chair of Moms for Liberty – Duval, Holli Dean, said, “It is very disappointing that DCPS seems to be in violation of state law and that parents cannot trust what is posted on the DCPS website regarding book reviews. What is even more disappointing and concerning is that some of these books are still in the hands of students. Ensuring our school districts are transparent and honest with parents and with taxpayers is exactly why Moms for Liberty exists.”

The mission of Moms for Liberty nationwide is to fight for the survival of America by unifying, educating, and empowering parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government. Moms for Liberty continues to see explosive grassroots growth as American parents claim their rightful seat at the table when decisions are being made that impact their children.

For more information on the organization, please visit MomsforLiberty.org

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