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# CENSORSHIP IN TENNESSEE SCHOOLS: AGE-APPROPRIATE MATERIALS ACT

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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A nationwide attempt to censor honest discussion of America's history is underway. State legislatures – including Tennessee's – have passed legislation that censors teachers and impedes students' ability to access valuable educational materials.

We oppose Tennessee's oppressive and vague policies, which threaten free speech in schools and classrooms.

## AGE-APPROPRIATE MATERIALS ACT

(Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-6-3801, et seq.).

In 2022, the Tennessee legislature passed the **"Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022."**

This law regulates books, magazines, films and other educational media that are available in a school's library.

## What does the Age-Appropriate Materials act do?

The law requires LEAs to post a list of library collections on their website and to include updated policies for reviewing materials, which must include a procedure to "evaluate feedback" from a student, parent, or school employee.

If feedback is received, the school board must evaluate the material that received "feedback" to determine whether it is age appropriate and consistent with the mission of the school. If deemed not "appropriate," the book must be removed.

## How did the 2024 legislative session affect the Age-Appropriate Materials Act?

During the 2024 legislative session, the Tennessee legislature passed **Public Chapter 782**, which makes changes to the Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022. **Public Chapter 782 declares that any type of nudity or excess violence is not appropriate for students in any grades K-12 and prohibits such materials from being maintained in a school's library collection.**

This amendment also allows for the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission to review "feedback" if the local board of education does not make a determination within 60 days. The State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission is composed of 14 members who recommend an official list of textbooks and instructional materials to be approved by the State Board of Education.

If a material is deemed not appropriate, then the material must be removed from the entire library collection.

**This misguided and overly broad ban on certain materials could result in the censoring of educational materials on biology, history, literature, and health.**



**IF THIS LAW  
AFFECTS YOU,  
WE WANT TO  
HEAR FROM YOU.**

**If you are a teacher** and have been told to change curriculum or course instruction, been disciplined for something you've said or taught, or been told to remove a book from the classroom or library because of this law, please contact ACLU-TN at: [www.aclu-tn.org/legal-assistance/](http://www.aclu-tn.org/legal-assistance/).

**If you are a student** and your school has prohibited you from discussion with other students, forming a club, reading or presenting on a certain book or topic, or has inhibited your speech any other way, please contact ACLU-TN at: [www.aclu-tn.org/legal-assistance/](http://www.aclu-tn.org/legal-assistance/)