

Preparing for challenges to Intellectual Freedom

POLICY

- ❑ Make sure your library has a [Collection Development Policy](#) that details the material selection process, includes information on the steps for requesting the reevaluation of materials, and reaffirms the library's commitment to the freedom to read.
- ❑ Your library should also have a [Request For Reevaluation of Materials Form](#) that gives patrons an opportunity to formally request the removal of an item or resource.

PROACTIVE GOVERNANCE

- ❑ Your library or school board needs to be prepared to run a meeting that keeps governance on track. Make sure the board chair has a deep understanding of [Michigan's Open Meetings Act](#), Robert's Rules of Order, and up-to-date bylaws that dictate how meetings are run. The board should be well versed in running a meeting, even in the presence of disruptive attendees.
- ❑ Your Library Director or School Librarian should take the proactive steps to educate their board and other stakeholders on the library's commitment to a broad selection of reading materials for everyone. Explain the importance of a good collection development policy, the need for trained and professional librarians to oversee this process, and the legal precedent for retaining materials that some may find objectionable.
- ❑ Your governing board may also need an overview of their role and responsibilities, and the delegation of duties to library staff, especially concerning collection development and the material reevaluation process.

LOCAL & COALITION SUPPORT

- ❑ Your local Friends group or other volunteers should work to identify intellectual freedom advocates in your community, and prepare them to respond when a politically motivated material challenge surfaces.
- ❑ Visit the [Mi Right to Read website](#) to request direct support from the Michigan Library Association and your Library Cooperative. Make sure to join the Mi Right to Read coalition to stay up to date on information, resources and other support you can use to defend intellectual freedom.



Mi Right to Read is a grassroots coalition of concerned Michigan residents organized by the Michigan Library Association. Join the coalition and find additional supporting resources at www.mirighttoread.com