



Whereas intellectual freedom is every learner's right and the

Whereas the Library Bill of Rights³ affirms all students' right to read through the

and

4.

Whereas our youth, as future voting citizens and leaders of this country, need equitable access to the diverse learning opportunities and resources, including the representation of communities of multiple races, ethnic heritages, geographic origins, gender identities, economic differences, and interests;

Whereas equitable student access and choice in reading, listening, and viewing increases academic outcomes, lays the foundation for a culture of literacy, and inspires lifelong learning;

Whereas for young people, especially for those in underserved communities, school libraries may represent young people's only means of access to curricular and independent reading resources as well as information literacy instruction;

Whereas certified, university-educated professional school librarians follow board-approved policies and procedures, selecting and maintaining collections that are age-appropriate, high-quality, and balanced to meet curricular and personal interests, and promote student choice;

Whereas censorship distorts intellectual dialogue by limiting access and understanding of the representative variety of voices that comp



Whereas school librarians currently face increasing calls for dismissal and/or prosecution



5. Encourages ALA members to become more involved with intellectual freedom efforts in ALA, to act as liaison between other ALA groups and IFRT and IFC, to always report challenges to the Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) in support of accurate statistics, to donate to the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund supporting library workers who are facing financial difficulties for their support of intellectual freedom, and to join the Freedom to Read Foundation; and
6. Commits to speaking with one voice across the Association against threats to students' right to read and threats to their First Amendment rights.

by the Council of the American Library Association
Thursday, March 10, 2022, ALA Virtual March Council Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracie D. Hall', is written over a horizontal line.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director, and
Secretary of the ALA Council





Footnotes:

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