

# RESOLUTION

## On Textbook and Reading Program Censorship

### Background

The debate over the control of school programs has a long history, which on occasion has erupted into conflict as school programs and materials may come under attack by individuals or groups.

WHEREAS it is recognized that one purpose of reading is to learn about diversity in the world, individuals or groups would at times deny students the right to read about other cultures, customs, and beliefs. As a consequence materials and reading programs are eliminated or drastically modified as a result of noninstructional considerations.

### Resolution

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the International Reading Association commend those state, provincial and local educational agencies that support the professional processes for the selection of reading materials by teachers, parents/guardians, administrators, media specialists, and members of boards of education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

- that IRA condemn attempts by those who choose to deprive students of quality reading programs;
- that IRA condemn efforts by those who choose to prevent or disrupt objective discussion of materials and school reading program issues; and
- that IRA widely publish and disseminate this resolution to legislators, boards of education, professional organizations, chief state and provincial school officers, and school administrators.

(Adopted 1998; Revised May 1997)