RESOLUTION

On Textbook and Reading Program Censorship

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

WHEREAS it is recognized that one purpose of reading is to learn about diversity in the world. At times individuals or groups have denied students the right to read about other cultures, and customs. As a consequence selected materials and reading programs were eliminated or drastically modified.

Resolution
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the International Reading Association recommend that state, provincial and local educational agencies support open, transparent, and participatory 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 supports the selection of high quality core reading instruction programs;
• that IRA supports open, transparent, and participatory discussions of materials and school reading program issues; and
• that IRA will make this resolution available to its members to disseminate to legislators, boards of education, professional organizations, chief state and provincial school officers, and school administrators.

(Adopted 1998; Revised May 1997; Revised May 2012)