

East Granby Public Library

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Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Policy

Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. East Granby Public Library (EGPL) believes it is essential that library resources, both physical and digital, remain free to use for all. East Granby Public Library staff and trustees abide by the following general principles when evaluating library materials and requests for reconsideration:

- Libraries provide free access to all expressions of ideas through a variety of diverse materials reflecting different points of view
- Libraries strive to prevent censorship - the suppression of ideas and information that certain individuals, groups, or government officials find objectionable or dangerous.
- All library users have a First Amendment right to read, view, and listen to library resources.
- Parents or guardians have the right to guide the reading, viewing, and listening of their children, but must give the same right to other parents/guardians.
- Any person has the right to express concerns about library resources and expect to have the objection taken seriously. An individual can formally question library materials through a fair and formalized complaint process (see Formal Complaint Process below).
- When library resources are reconsidered, the principles of the freedom to read, listen, and view are defended, rather than specific materials.
- A questioned item will be considered in its entirety, not judged solely on portions taken out of context.
- The Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements from the American Library Association can be used as guiding documents.

Selection of library materials is an inclusive process, where the library affirmatively seeks out materials that will serve its mission of providing a broad range of points of view and subject matter. If individuals believe that materials or representations of particular points of view and/or interests are not adequately present in the library's collection, they have the right to request those materials. Libraries strive to serve the interests of the entire community. If the library is unable to purchase the material requested, it may be able to obtain the material through an interlibrary loan.

A balanced collection attempts to represent all sides of controversial issues as far as the availability of materials, space, and budget allow. Selection is based upon the criteria stated in our Materials Selection Policy. The race, religion, nationality, or political views of an author or creator; offensive language; depictions or descriptions of violence or sexually explicit activity; controversial content of an item; or endorsement or disapproval by an individual or group in the community does not cause an item automatically to be included or excluded from the library's collection.

Message to Parents and Guardians:

Like adults, children and teens have the right to find the information they choose. Libraries have a responsibility to provide information for a wide variety of users. Parents and guardians have the right and responsibility to make decisions about what materials are suitable for their own families. No one has the right to make rules restricting what other people use, or to make decisions for other families.

If a child borrows something from a library that that child's parent/guardian believes is inappropriate, the parent/guardian is encouraged to return the item and make use of the expertise of their librarian to locate materials they prefer.

No individual, company, or government agency controls or monitors the Internet in the United States. While much of the information accessed can be valuable and enlightening, the user may also find materials that are unreliable, personally offensive, or illegal under United States law. Therefore, parents are advised to supervise their children's internet sessions at the library. By taking responsibility for their children's online computer use, whether at the library or at home, parents can minimize any potential risks associated with online computer use. Library staff does not monitor computer use.