

# Sarasota County School Board Removing Library Books in Scary, Excessive Manner

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## School Board removes books without cause

The Sarasota County School Board claims it hasn't banned any books. Yet a review of the district's Weeding Log for Book Removal, submitted to the Department of Education, states otherwise.



Over a four-month period, January 29 to May 31 this year, 80 individual titles labeled "not age appropriate" by administrators or library media specialists were removed from Sarasota County's school library shelves.

Why not make them available for older students?

Many, many other titles labeled "outdated" were removed. By what criteria?

Even more disturbing, from August 2023 through late January 2024, 13,146 books, including hundreds of individual titles, were removed without any explanation (none was required).

Authors with controversial viewpoints or occult/mystical themes were targeted: Rick Riordan, Dr. Seuss, Harper Lee, Judy Blume, J.K. Rowling. Were parents informed that their children couldn't access these award-winning authors?

This removal process violates the district's own policies, lacks transparency and is excessive.

School administrators aren't required to proactively review material describing sexual conduct without receiving a formal objection -- yet this is what occurred.

Further, the February 2024 court settlement on HB1557 confirmed that restrictions on materials containing content on sexual orientation or gender identity apply only to direct instruction, not library materials.

Neither [Sarasota's book challenge policy \(4.22\)](#) nor the law was followed.

This must change.

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