MCPS Middle School Libraries Focus on

Intellectual Freedom

Click on each piece of information and pic for more information, sources and to watch the videos.

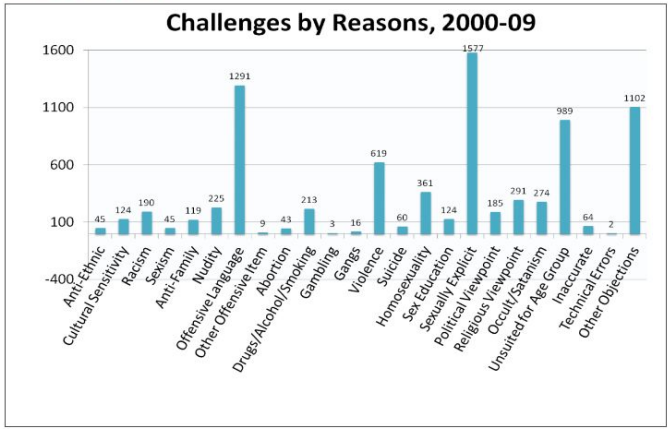
"Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored. Intellectual freedom is the basis for our democratic system. We expect our people to be self-governors. But to do so responsibly, our citizenry must be well-informed. Libraries provide the ideas and information, in a variety of formats, to allow people to inform themselves."

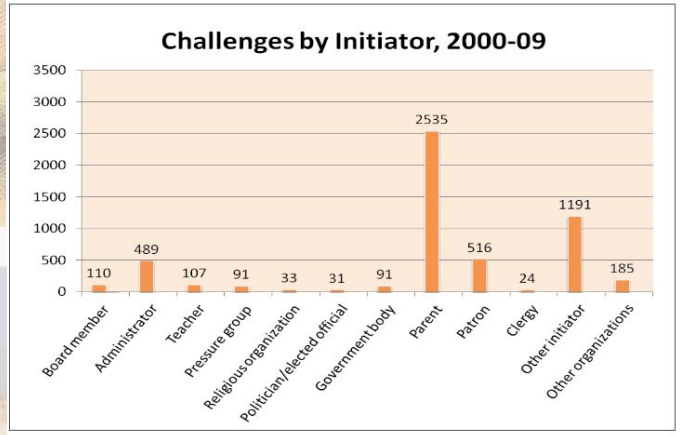
Our students are required to have a knowledge of and respect for Intellectual Freedom.

State Standards:
English SOLs: 6.2, 6.3, 6.6, 7.1, 8.3, 8.9
Science SOLs: 6.9
Soc. Studies: USI.1, USI.9, USII.1, CE.1, CE.3, CE.9
Information Literacy Skills from the American Association of School Libraries:
Learners use skills, resources and tools to: Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society.

Intellectual Freedom is infringed upon by **CENSORSHIP**. "Censorship is the suppression of ideas and information that certain persons find objectionable or dangerous. It is no more complicated than someone saying, 'Don't let anyone read this book, because I object to it! 'Censorship occurs when materials, like books, are removed or kept from public access. Censorship also occurs when materials are restricted to particular audiences, based on their age or other characteristics."

Why do I need to be aware of intellectual freedom and censorship?





What is the difference between a book challenge and banning a book? A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others.

Dav Pilkey of Captain Underpants fame, explains fREADom to read

~~"Not every book is right for each reader but~~ we should have the right to think for ourselves ~~and allow others to do the same."~~

— American Library Association President Roberta Stevens

What can your Librarian do for you?

Teach students!

Censorship True/False Presentation

Banned Books Week Collaborations

Uphold principles of intellectual freedom when choosing Library materials!

Professional Librarians take an oath to uphold these principles!
Library Bill of Rights

The presence of any particular materials in a library collection does not imply endorsement of the ideas expressed in those materials. The library is simply doing its job as a neutral provider of information from all points of view—if the library "endorses" anything, it is your right to have access to a broad selection of materials.

Help you with questions about censorship!

American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom

Help you address potential censorship issues!

We have guidelines in place for our Libraries and Schools
MCPS Selection Guidelines