

Protecting North Carolina's Students: Identified Concerns & Proposed Remedies

Parents have the right and responsibility to guide their children's education. School libraries, classrooms, and instructional materials must support learning — not expose students to obscene or ideologically driven content. The Pavement Education Project has identified serious concerns in both library and classroom materials across North Carolina. This document pairs each Identified Concern with a practical Proposed Remedy focused on legislation, enforcement, and statewide standards.

Our recommendations **empower parents with transparency while equipping legislators** to pass strong statutes that protect children and restore trust in public education.

Identified Concerns

NC defines obscenity in its statutes, yet provides a legal defense for schools, libraries, and museums that allows the *dissemination of such obscene and harmful material to minors in educational settings, etc.*

§ 14-190.1. Obscene literature and exhibitions.

§ 14-190.15. Disseminating harmful material to minors; exhibiting harmful performances to minors.

Obscene books are available in the school library and classrooms.

Books that are in violation of the NC Parents Bill of Rights are located in libraries and classrooms and available for use by teachers and for checkout by K-4 children. *i.e. Gender identity, gender expression, etc.*

Required reporting of classroom library collections is undermined by inconsistent cataloging practices — some organized by teacher, others by grade or school. Many are not alphabetized by author/title, lack copy counts, and are not fully included in official catalogs or reported materials. "Secret" or "special" collections (including private/personal materials used by students) may not have been included. Parents have difficulty finding this information and searching within it.

Proposed Remedies

Legislative amendments are needed to narrow or remove school/library exemptions in the obscenity statutes so that K-12 educational materials are held to the same legal standards as materials provided to minors outside educational settings.

Require mandatory, independent audits of all school library and classroom collections using current obscenity standards; immediately remove or restrict access to materials in violation and publish removal lists for parental review on district and state websites. Use the tools at **NRBI.org** to assist with the identification.

Enforce full compliance with the NC Parents Bill of Rights through state auditor, parental notification requirements, and create clear consequences for violations (such as loss of state funding or administrative penalties). Use NRBI and PEP to identify these materials.

Create uniform statewide guidelines for organizing and cataloging all classroom collections (including teachers' private or personal literature used by or with students). Collections must be alphabetized by author/title, include copy counts, grade-level appropriateness notations, and be fully included in official, searchable catalogs or searchable spreadsheets. A template would be nice. The location of all materials must be easily accessible on school and district websites. Require implementation of HB 805.

Identified Concerns

Inconsistency in location of link to online card catalog on school and district websites making it difficult for parents to locate the library and classroom materials available to students.

Online resources available to students contain obscene or gender diverse ideologies.

Books and materials do not reflect best health practices, healthy living standards, or follow grade protocols in the Parents Bill of Rights.

There is no standardized content rating scale/tool for evaluating books and materials to determine what is age appropriate, what could be used for instruction, what should require parent notification, or what should require parent permission.

No centralized, easy-to-use resource exists for parents, educators, and media specialists to quickly identify which books meet or do not meet state standards.

The current challenge and reconsideration process for instructional materials is lengthy, burdensome, and places responsibility on busy parents or guardians, while limiting or removing the broader community's ability to effectively challenge inappropriate materials.

Proposed Remedies

Establish uniform statewide standards requiring the online card catalog link to appear in the same prominent location (e.g., top navigation bar or dedicated "Parent Resources" section) on every school and district website homepage. Parents should locate the library catalog search easily.

Mandate that all digital/online resources available to students (including Sora, NC Kids Digital, Cardinal System, and similar platforms) be fully reviewed under the Quick View Rating and Tier System or NBRI. Ensure materials are age appropriate and follow state law.

Prohibit gender ideology materials in K-4 classrooms. Any permitted materials should align with NC health standards.

Implement the Quick View Content Determination Tool and Tier System statewide for consistent evaluation of all materials. Tier 0-1: Fully approved with no restrictions. Tier 2: Parental notification required. Tier 3: Explicit parental permission required (not available in elementary schools). Tier 4: Restricted, not available for use in schools.

Establish a publicly searchable statewide database that lists every evaluated book or material. Schools and districts perform all evaluations and submit results; the state only hosts, maintains, and updates the database for transparency without conducting its own evaluations.

Streamline the challenge and reconsideration process through statewide standards that reduce timelines, ease the burden on parents, and restore meaningful community input and transparency in reviewing library and classroom materials.