



WHY ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL (SLAC) IS IMPORTANT

SLACs give **parents** significant influence over their children's school library experience. Every SLAC **must** be comprised of:

- ✓ **At least 5 members** total
- ✓ A **majority must be parents** of enrolled students (not district employees)
- ✓ **Parents elect the chairperson** from among themselves
- ✓ **Equal representation** from each board trustee's appointments

The parent-lead SLAC has many duties and responsibilities. Understanding these responsibilities will help you see why organizing this effort is worth your time.

REAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

Your school district **must** consider your **parent-lead SLAC's** recommendations before:

- ✓ Adding new library materials to any school catalog
- ✓ Removing materials following community challenges
- ✓ Changing library policies or material selection guidelines

This isn't just courtesy consultation - it's a legal requirement. **Parents** will be empowered to make recommendations that carry weight and must be formally considered by the school board.

OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

The **parent-lead SLAC** has the authority to oversee and recommend:

- ✓ **Acquisition policies** that reflect your community's values
- ✓ **Grade-level appropriateness** for all proposed materials
- ✓ **Removal of inappropriate content** that violates state standards
- ✓ **Challenge procedures** for concerning materials
- ✓ **Collaboration strategies** with local public libraries

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

- ➔ **New Book Selections:** Your SLAC will review purchase proposals and make recommendations based on state library standards and educational value, rather than leaving decisions solely to librarians and administrators.
- ➔ **Challenge Responses:** When parents raise concerns about specific materials, your SLAC will investigate, review content against state standards, and make formal recommendations to the school board about whether materials should remain, be moved, or removed.
- ➔ **Policy Development:** Your SLAC will help create the actual policies that guide how your district selects, evaluates, and maintains library materials, ensuring state standards are built into the process from the start.

