

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Instructional Leaders
Public Information Officers
School Board Members

FROM: Rebecca Blackburn Hines
Policy & Board Liaison, Office of Governmental Affairs & Policy

DATE: June 3, 2025

RE: Regulation 43-170—Final Orders from the State Board of Education

Over the last few months, the State Board of Education has issued rulings concerning materials pursuant to Regulation 43-170. This memorandum contains notice that the State Board has issued orders concerning an additional sixteen materials.

As the Board continues to rule on instructional materials, we will keep you updated through the Agency’s weekly memos. Additionally, we are making all updates available on the [designated page](#). When the orders are finalized, they, along with any supporting documentation, will be uploaded to the page for reference.

The latest State Board’s rulings fall into two categories: Removal and Retention.

Removal Orders

As per Regulation 43-170, materials containing “descriptions or visual depictions of ‘sexual conduct’” are not deemed “Age and Developmentally Appropriate” for any age group. Therefore, such materials must be removed from all school libraries, classroom libraries, and other areas on campus where they may be accessible to students. Thus far, the State Board has voted to remove the following materials:

- Order 2025-0003: The Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky
- Order 2025-0004: All Boys aren’t Blue – George M. Johnson
- Order 2025-0005: Flamer – Mike Curato

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- Order 2025-0006: Push – Sapphire
- Order 2025-0007: Collateral – Ellen Hopkins
- Order 2025-0008: Empire of Storms – Sarah J. Maas
- Order 2025-0009: Half of a Yellow Sun – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- Order 2025-0010: Hopeless – Colleen Hoover
- Order 2025-0011: Identical – Ellen Hopkins
- Order 2025-0012: Kingdom of Ash – Sarah J. Maas
- Order 2025-0013: Last Night at the Telegraph Club – Malinda Lo
- Order 2025-0014: Living Dead Girl – Elizabeth Scott
- Order 2025-0015: Lucky – Alice Sebold
- Order 2025-0016: Tricks – Ellen Hopkins

Under the State Board’s rulings, these materials must be immediately removed from all public schools in South Carolina. Please review the State Board’s written orders for further clarification on these items.

Retention Orders

The State Board has ruled that the following materials may be retained, as they do not violate Regulation 43-170:

- Order 2025-0001: Bronx Masquerade – Nikki Grimes
- Order 2025-0002: House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros

Please note that the State Board does not compel local districts to use these materials. Local districts retain the discretion to decide whether, when, and how these books may be used based on the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity of various age groups and the context-specific prudential factors outlined in the Regulation. Please review the State Board’s written orders for further clarification on these items.

Questions and Assistance

For any questions regarding the State Board’s orders or anything related to Regulation 43- 170, please contact Robert Cathcart, Policy & Legal Advisor, at rdcathcart@ed.sc.gov.