



April 18, 2023

Assemblymember Corey Jackson
1021 O Street, Suite 6120
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT — ASSEMBLY BILL 1078, OPPOSE

We write in opposition to Assembly Bill 1078 which would essentially strip local school boards of their unique authority over the curriculum taught in their district.

AB 1078 would require school boards to receive approval from the state board of education before removing any instructional materials or books from classrooms and school libraries or "ceasing to teach any curriculum." Instead of local school boards having the final say over what is taught in their districts — where they can be accountable to the people most closely affected by these decisions — your proposal will give all the power to the California State Board of Education.

California's education system — like our national education system — is based on local control. School board members are elected to represent parents, teachers, students and taxpayers in their district, and to make the decisions for district schools based on the needs of students in diverse districts. If AB 1078 becomes law, local school boards in the 944 districts across the state will have their hands tied over something that is fundamental to a school district's mission and performance: curriculum. Instead, insulated and unaccountable state bureaucrats will dictate what schools can or must teach.

School board trustees must remain accountable to the parents in their district who are ultimately responsible for their children's education. Shifting authority over curriculum to a state agency undermines the foundation of California's education system as well as our system of representational government, thus our opposition to AB 1078.

Sincerely,

Lance Christensen
Vice President of Education Policy & Government Affairs