

---

**From:** Ivie Szalai [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 4:58 PM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E  
**Cc:** Robine, Cathy G; Middleton, Angela D; Campbell, Earl; Smith, William C; Fidrych, Patricia; Geier, Richard P; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Gwozdz, Christina S; Campbell, Melvin P; Boatright, Ingrid D  
**Subject:** Explicit Book Complaint  
**Attachments:** Explicit Books Complaint.pdf

**WARNING:** This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Stratos,

I hope that you, the Board, and Dr. Rodriguez can clearly see that Regulation IS-38.1 Procedures for Handling Questioned or Challenged School Library Materials should not be required when schools should not be disseminating explicit materials in the first place. Thank you for allowing me to only fill out one form as opposed to 96. Although the materials in question are not given directly to children, they have been made available. And the fact that this material made its way into the schools is questionable but also criminal. I hope that there will also be an investigation as to who is responsible for this whether it be on a District level or at the school level.

*South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 16 - Crimes and Offenses*

*CHAPTER 15, Offenses Against Morality and Decency, ARTICLE 3, Obscenity, Material Harmful to Minors, Child Exploitation, and Child Prostitution*

*SECTION 16-15-305. Disseminating, procuring or promoting obscenity unlawful; definitions; penalties; obscene material designated contraband.*

It can and should be prosecuted.

*SECTION 16-15-385. Disseminating harmful material to minors and exhibiting harmful performance to minor defined; defenses; penalties.*

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t16c015.php>

Parents and guardians in the state of South Carolina send their children to school with the expectation that they are being safeguarded from material that is harmful to minors. As a parent, I should not have to spend over 30 hours digging into the school's library catalog to find materials that are considered minor restricted. Nor should I have to continue to monitor to see that new harmful material is or is not being added. I fully expect that a new policy be put in place to ensure that no further minor restricted material is added. It is the district's job to do this, not mine. I will continue to monitor but if I do find new material, I will not be filling out Regulation IS-38, I will be reporting it to the proper law enforcement authorities. You have been warned therefore to continue to disseminate explicit material can constitute actual malice.

Further, there should not have to be a Materials Reconsideration Committee to review materials of this nature. I understand that there will be literature that may not contain explicit material that should go through this process but one look at the reviews, using <http://booklooks.org/>, of any of the 96 book titles that I have provided should be enough to know that disseminating them in the schools is a violation of the law. If the most aberrant books were to be made into movies, the most graphic scenes would likely be rated X or at the bare minimum, rated R. Minors are not allowed in an R rated movie without parental or guardian supervision. I do not think the District would support nor allow the showing of an R rated movie in school so why would it be ok to have books with similar substance available to minors?

I am asking that the District make a formal statement regarding this matter. Further, I am hearing rumors that the Board is being told that most of the titles are not in the schools. As of October 13th, every title listed is available in Destiny Discover. I have over 300 screengrabs to show proof of this. The District needs to acknowledge its mistake and prove to citizens that this will never happen again. Please, I ask that you as a District, lead the change that needs to happen across our entire state and nation.

Please find attached the form that I have filled out along with a list of the 96 book titles that are available in one or more libraries in our district schools below. Some schools have multiple copies, like 25 or

more. That would lead me to believe that perhaps those books are actually being used as instructional material in the classroom. If so, that needs to stop immediately. I would like to point out that this is not political. This is not about woke ideology. This is about minors being exposed to material that is not age appropriate and is against the law.

I look forward to hearing back and I expect that you will keep me fully informed every step of the way.

Sincerely, Ivie Szalai

The resource that I used to determine the severity of the material is <http://booklooks.org/>.

Another good resource is <https://www.ratedbooks.org/>.

I have not yet cross checked with the Rated Books website but in all honesty, it's the District's turn to do the work.

I looked for every book that had a rating of 3 or higher.

- A rating of 3 is defined as minor restricted, under 18 requires guidance of parent or guardian.
- A rating of 4 is defined as no minors, adult content, no child under 18.
- A rating of 5 is defined as aberrant content, adult only.

Book Titles found using Destiny

(<https://destiny.beaufort.k12.sc.us/district/servlet/presentlistsitesform.do?districtMode=true>).

1. A Lesson in Vengeance by Victoria Lee Rated 3
2. All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson Rated 4
3. All the Things We Do in the Dark by Saundra Mitchell Rated 3
4. Almost Perfect by Brian Katcher Rated 3
5. Ask the Passengers by A.S. King Rated 3
6. Beautiful by Amy Reed Rated 4
7. Boy Girl Boy by Ron Koertge Rated 3
8. Burned by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
9. Breathless by Jennifer Niven Rated 4
10. \*City of Heavenly Fire by Cassandra Clare
11. Clockwork Princess by Cassandra Clare Rated 3
12. Collateral by Ellen Hopkins Rated 4
13. Confess: A Novel by Colleen Hoover Rated 4
14. Cool for the Summer by Dahlia Adler Rated 3
15. Court of Frost and Starlight by Sarah J. Maas Rated 4
16. Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Maas Rated 4
17. Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas Rated 4
18. Court of Wings and Ruin by Sarah J. Maas Rate 4
19. Crank by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
20. Damsel by Elana Arnold Rated 4
21. Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell Rated 3
22. Empire of Storms by Sarah J. Maas Rated 4
23. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer Rated 3
24. Fade by Lisa McMann Rated 3
25. Fallout by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
26. Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender Rated 3
27. Flamer by Mike Curato Rated 3
28. Forever for a Year by B.T. Gottfred Rated 4
29. Foul is Fair by Hannah Capin Rated 3
30. Gabi, A Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero Rated 3
31. Glass by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
32. Go Ask Alice by Anonymous Rated 3
33. Grit by Gillian French Rated 3
34. grl2grl by Julie Anne Peters Rated 3
35. Grown by Tiffany D. Jackson Rated 3
36. Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Rated 4
37. Hopeless by Colleen Hoover Rated 4
38. I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez Rated 3

39. Identical by Ellen Hopkins Rated 4
40. I'll Give You The Sun by Jandy Nelson Rated 3
41. Impulse by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
42. It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover Rated 4
43. Kingdom of Ash by Sarah J. Maas Rated 4
44. Last night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo Rated 4
45. Layla by Colleen Hoover Rated 4
46. \*Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli
47. Living Dead Girl by Elizabeth Scott Rated 4
48. Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov Rated 3
49. Looking for Alaska by John Green Rated 3
50. Lucky by Alice Sebold Rated 5
51. Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews Rated 3
52. Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur Rated 4
53. Monday's not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson Rated 3
54. More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera Rated 3
55. Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult Rated 4
56. November 9 by Colleen Hoover Rated 4
57. Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood Rated 4
58. Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Perez Rated 3
59. Perfect by Ellen Hopkins Rated 4
60. Push a novel by Sapphire Rated 5
61. Ramona Blue by Julie Murphy Rated 3
62. Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson Rated 3
63. Rumble by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
64. Scars by Cheryl Rainfield Rated 3
65. Shine by Lauren Myracle Rated 4
66. Skin by Donna Jo Napoli Rated 4
67. Smoke by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
68. Sold by Patricia McCormick Rated 5
69. Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson Rated 3
70. The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein Rated 3
71. The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta Rated 3
72. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison Rated 4
73. The Carnival at Bray by Jessie Ann Foley Rated 4
74. The Duff by Kody Keplinger Rated 4
75. The Female of the Species by Mindy McGinnis Rated 3
76. The Fixer by Bernard Malamud Rated 3
77. The Freedom Writers Diary by The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell Rated 4
78. The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood Rated 4
79. The Haters by Jesse Andrews Rated 4
80. The Infinite Moment of Us by Lauren Myracle Rated 4
81. The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini Rated 4
82. The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold Rated 3
83. The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky Rated 4
84. The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo Rated 3
85. The Truth About Alice by Jennifer Mathieu Rated 3
86. The Upside of Unrequited by Becky Albertalli Rated 3
87. The You I've Never Known by Ellen Hopkins Rated 3
88. Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher Rated 3
89. This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki Rated 3
90. Tilt by Ellen Hopkins Rated 4
91. Tower of Dawn by Sarah J. Maas Rated 3
92. Tricks by Ellen Hopkins Rated 5
93. Water for Elephants by Sarah Gruen Rated 4
94. Wintergirls by Laurie Halse Anderson Rated 3

- 95. Yolk by Mary H. K. Choi Rated 3
- 96. YOLO by Lauren Myracle Rated 4



--

Ivie Szalai