



State Librarian Statement on Passage of California Freedom to Read Act

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[Sacramento, Calif.] – On September 29th, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the California Freedom to Read Act (AB 1825, Muratsuchi) into law. The California Freedom to Read Act helps communities ensure their local libraries are reflective of that community’s diversity. The new law creates a variety of benchmarks for communities to use in determining what materials libraries make available.

One of the law’s requirements is that the “collection development plans” libraries use to help make these determinations must be sent to the State Librarian.

“This new law helps provide Californians with the materials they need to succeed and thrive and helps ensure local libraries remain responsive to the needs of their local residents,” said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. “Thanks to Assemblyman Muratsuchi, California now has a law that makes library decision-making more transparent and inclusive.”

Collection development plans are formal policies that guide the selection of library materials and establish a process for community members to contribute. They’re used by libraries to establish clear standards about what types of materials they plan to make available and communicate those values to their local communities. These documents are formal policies that guide the selection of library materials and establish a process for community members to contribute.

For more information, read the text of the [California Freedom to Read Act](#) on the Legislature’s website.

END RELEASE TEXT

About the State Library: Established in 1850, the [California State Library](#) is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The Library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history. Around the state, the State Library serves California’s local libraries, providing more than \$500 million state and federal funds to support public libraries and deliver statewide library programs and services such as the free Parks Pass program in public libraries, Lunch at the Library during school breaks and holidays, and a statewide eBook library with diverse titles in 20+ languages. The State Library is also partnering with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to provide books to every child under the age of 5.