

NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Dan Thomas

Cell: 469.319.1267

Email: dthomas@ccdfusa.com



Mom's Battle Against Inappropriate Books Reaches State Level

COLLIN COUNTY, Texas - A Texas Administrative Law Judge has made a rare ruling that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has jurisdiction over complaints about inappropriate schoolbooks. The original complaint came from Collin County mother Laura Giles about inappropriate books in Lovejoy Independent School District's (LISD) libraries. With help from Citizens Defending Freedom (CDF), she has now successfully elevated her fight to the state level. This challenges LISD policies as well as tests the new READER Act (HB900) passed during the last Texas legislative session.

Giles initially filed a grievance seeking the removal of four books she considered educationally unsuitable and pervasively vulgar from LISD libraries. After her complaint was denied at the district's Level 3 grievance hearing, Giles, with support from CDF Legal, filed a Level 4 grievance with the TEA, the first test of HB900 since its passage.

This move comes at a pivotal time, as TEA Commissioner Mike Morath recently stated in an SBOE meeting that district decisions on such matters are final. [His remarks can be viewed by following this link](#). However, in a surprising turn of events, an Administrative Law Judge ruled Monday, September 16, that the TEA does indeed have jurisdiction in this case. The judge has ordered a briefing and scheduled oral arguments, effectively mandating that Commissioner Morath must hear the case and make a ruling.

"This decision marks a potential shift in how challenges to school library content are handled at the district level," said Shannon Ayres, Education Division Lead for Collin County CDF.

The case has drawn significant attention, highlighting the ongoing debate about parental rights, educational content and the role of state agencies in local school district decisions. Oral arguments are set for Dec. 12, 2024. All eyes are now on Commissioner Morath as stakeholders await a decision that could set a precedent for similar cases across Texas.

About Citizens Defending Freedom:

Founded in 2021, Citizens Defending Freedom is a non-profit organization that strategically operates in counties across America to help citizens defend their faith and freedom, all while fighting for transparency in local government. Currently, Citizens Defending Freedom is established in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, and Texas, with plans to continue expanding across America. [Click here](#) to learn more about Citizens Defending Freedom.