



Know Your Rights: What You Need to Know About Tennessee's Censorship Bills from the 2023 Legislative Session

Webinar Resource Links

Event Resources:

- Recording: https://edtrust.zoom.us/rec/play/ljyDjhRGaSBtAHEoSRTRMoVaBkiNDsaZ-WNxshpaYoxymdfsxT8iM5twTsDr0zwlTXa2ReW0oGkSC_yUf0VwrnPF05GUqdG
- PowerPoint: <https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/6.7-Know-Your-Rights-Presentation--2023-Tennessee-Censorship-Laws.pptx.pdf>
- Q&A Summary: <https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/6.7-Know-Your-Rights-Webinar--QA.pdf>
- Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTCWeb_Jun2023

Who Are We?

- The Education Trust in Tennessee: <https://edtrust.org/tennessee/>
- TN Alliance for Equity in Education: <https://thealliancetn.org/> & Join the Alliance [here](#)
- TN Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms: <https://edtrust.org/tennessee/tn-coalition-for-truth-in-our-classrooms/>
- ACLU-TN: www.aclu-tn.org
- PEN America: <https://pen.org/>

How Did We Get Here?

- Background of the “anti-CRT” movement: <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05>
- Coalition Resource Hub: <https://edtrust.org/tennessee/tn-coalition-for-truth-in-our-classrooms/>
- Testimony: [TN Youth Coalition students testify before TN Senate Judiciary Committee regarding School Library Censorship bill \(wistia.com\)](#)
- AP: [LGBTQ, kids of color feel less welcome at school as bans become law | AP News](#)

Where Are We Today?

Tennessee Coalition for **Truth in Classrooms**



- The Washington Post: An Explosion of Culture-War Laws is Changing Schools. Here's How: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/10/18/education-laws-culture-war/>

Past Know Your Rights Events

- **May:**
 - [Recording & PowerPoint](#)
- **November:**
 - [Recording & PowerPoint](#)

2021 & 2022 Tennessee Censorship Legislation

- 2021:
 - **[Public Chapter 493](#)**: first censorship law in TN impacting “prohibited/disvisive concepts” in K-12 curriculum and teaching
- 2022:
 - **[Public Chapter 744](#)**: Age Appropriate Materials Act
 - **[Public Chapter 1137](#)**: Textbook Commission; Statewide Book Bans
 - **[Public Chapter 818](#)**: Higher Education “Divisive Concepts” Restrictions
- Wins:
 - **[Public Chapter 1063](#)** & **[Public Chapter 127](#)** Requiring the teaching of the Civil Rights Movement
 - **[Public Chapter 938](#)**: Requiring the Teaching of Black History & Culture in Grades 5-8

Updates on 2021 & 2022 Censorship Laws

- Will Prohibited Concepts 2.0 (**[HB1377/SB1141](#)**), which would have expanded 2021 Public Chapter 493 failed in the Senate Education Committee
 - [Coalition Letter of Opposition](#)
- Williamson County Parents Rights Lawsuit: [Judge on TN lawsuit: 'Does not even come close' to critical race theory \(tennessean.com\)](#)
- **[HB1040/SB1078](#)**, would've removed the requirement in Public Chapter 744 for teachers to post their classroom library books online failed
 - [Coalition Letter of Support](#)
- Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission: [TBC_Library_Guidance_Document.pdf \(tn.gov\)](#)

2023 Censorship Legislation

- **[Public Chapter 438](#)**: Implicit Bias Restrictions
- **[Public Chapter 448](#)**: Student Pronoun Restrictions
- **[Public Chapter 353](#)**: Parent Consent & Opt In Processes

Tennessee Coalition for **Truth in Classrooms**



- **Public Chapter 268:** TN Higher Education Freedom of Expression & Transparency Act
- **Public Chapter 278:** Textbook Seller/Distributor Threats: “Education Obscenity”
- **Public Chapter 285:** Private School Regulations on Sports Participation
 - Related bills: **Public Chapter 40** & **Public Chapter 909**
- **Public Chapter 472:** Library Complaints Process; Amendment to Age Appropriate Materials Act

ACLU-TN Resources

- Censorship in Tennessee’s Higher Education: www.aclu-tn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Censorship-in-Higher-Ed-FAQ.pdf
- Censorship in K-12 Tennessee Schools: <https://www.aclu-tn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Censorship-FAQ.pdf>
- FAQ: Critical Race Theory: <https://www.aclu-tn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CRT-FAQ.pdf>
- TN Student Rights & Youth Activism: [Youth and Students' Rights - ACLU of Tennessee \(aclu-tn.org\)](http://aclu-tn.org)
- If you are aware of a school using new laws to stop student speech, association, or other activity, contact ACLU-TN: <https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/aclu-tn-legal-intake-form>

PEN America Resources

- PEN America: <https://pen.org/>
- #FreeTheBooks: <http://pen.org/action>

Next Actions

- Sign up for weekly legislative updates, including our bill tracker: <https://edtrust.org/tennessee/>
- If you are aware of a school using new laws to stop student speech, association, or other activity, contact ACLU-TN: <https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/aclu-tn-legal-intake-form>
- Review webpage of resources [continually updated]: <https://edtrust.org/tennessee/tn-coalition-for-truth-in-our-classrooms/>
- Sign up & share for Coalition listserv [here!](#)
- ETSU & Vanderbilt Teacher [Survey](#)
- Is your organization, or do you know an organization, interested in getting involved with our Coalition? Contact: mpowell@edtrust.org

Coalition Partner Advocacy Actions & Resources

Action & Advocacy Opportunities:

- **EmpowerED Student Network:**
 - Register:

Tennessee Coalition for
**Truth in
 Classrooms**



- **Stand for Children Tennessee** Momentum Memphis Education Task Forces
 - Next Meeting: June 12th 6PM CT
 - Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- **Mom’s for Social Justice - Chattanooga** Monthly Community Virtual Meetings
 - Next Meeting: June 8th 6PM ET
 - Register: [Community Meeting | Facebook](#)
- **TN Educator of Color Alliance** Membership Network - free to join!
 - [Join Here](#)
- **TN Association of School Librarians** - [Reach out](#) to TASL if you or you know a librarian who faces censorship in their districts.
- **AWAKE TN Youth Advocacy Summit**
 - Apply: [Youth Advocacy Summit – AWAKE \(awaketn.org\)](#)

Follow our Coalition partners & sign up for their newsletters:

Organization	Website	Twitter	Instagram	Facebook
ACLU-TN	https://www.aclu-tn.org/	@aclutn	@aclu_tennessee	@aclutn
American Muslim Advisory Council	https://www.amactn.org/	@AMACTn	@amactn	@amactn
Asian & Pacific Islanders of Middle TN	https://www.apimidtn.org/	@APImidTN	@apimidtn	@apimiddletn
ArtsBuild	https://artsbuild.com/	@artsbuild	@ArtsBuild	@artsbuild
AWAKE TN	https://www.awaketn.org/	@AwakeTN	@awaketn	@awaketn
The Education Trust in Tennessee	https://edtrust.org/tennessee/	@EdTrustTN	@edtrusttn	
EmpowerED Student Network	https://empoweredtn.org/empowered-network/		@empowered_tn	
Diverse Learners Cooperative	https://diverselearnerscoop.com/	@diverselearnerscoop	@diverselearnerscoop	@diverselearnerscoop
Facing History & Ourselves	https://www.facinghistory.org/	@facinghistory	@facinghistory	@facinghistory
GLSEN TN	https://www.glsen.org/chapter/tennessee	@Glsen @GlsenTnGSA	@glsentn	@glsen

Tennessee Coalition for

Truth in Classrooms



My Brother's Keeper	https://mbknashville.weebly.com/			@MBKNashville
Moms for Social Justice Chattanooga	https://www.momsforsocialjustice.us/	@momsforsj	@msjchatt	@msjchatt
Nashville Teacher Residency	https://www.nashvilleteacherresidency.org/	@NashTeacherRes	@nashvilleteacherres	@nashvilleteacherresidency
TN NAACP	https://www.tnnaacp.org/index.html	@NaacpTn		@naacp
One WillCo	https://onewillco.org/	@OneWillco	@onewillco	@onewillco
Stand for Children Tennessee	https://stand.org/tennessee/	@TennesseeStand	@standtn	@standtennessee
TN Association of School Librarians TN Library Ecosystem Coalition	https://www.tasltn.org/	@TASLTN	@tasltn	@tasl.tn
TN Educators of Color Alliance	https://www.tneca.org/	@TNEdColorAllies	@tnedcoloralliance	@TennesseeEducatorsofColor
Tennessee Education Association	https://tnea.org/	@TEA_teachers	@TEA_teachers	@TEA_teachers
TN Library Association	http://tnla.org/	@TNLA		@TNLA
Tennessee Youth Coalition		@_tnyouthcoalition	@tn_youthcoalition	
Urban League of Middle Tennessee	https://www.ulmt.org/	@UrbanLeagueMT	@urbanleagueofmidtn	@UrbanLeagueMidTN
Volunteer State of Bilingual Literacy	https://www.volstatebilingual.org/	@VolStateSeal		
WillCo Iris	http://wilcoiris.org		@wilco_iris	
We Remember Nashville	https://www.weremembarnashville.org/	@weremembarnash	@weremembarnash	
YWCA Knoxville & Middle TN	https://ywcaknox.com/	@ywcaknoxville	@YWCAKnoxville	@ywcaknoxville