



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Mike Morath
Commissioner
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

Dear Commissioner Morath:

I am writing to you about recent revelations that Texas students have been exposed to pornographic books and content in Texas public schools. In a previous letter, I directed the Texas Education Agency, along with the State Board of Education and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, to begin developing statewide standards to prevent the presence of pornography and other obscene content in Texas public schools.

These standards will be vital in shielding Texas children from this inappropriate content while in a Texas public school. However, while these standards are being developed, more immediate action is needed to protect Texas students.

The presence of pornography in schools is not only inappropriate, but it is also against the law. In Texas, it is illegal to provide pornography to anyone under the age of 18 according to Section 43.24 of the Texas Penal Code. The fact that pornographic material that serves no educational purpose has been made available to students in Texas public schools is a clear violation of the law.

While the Texas Association of School Boards has refused to assist their member school boards to address this issue, the State of Texas must act for the sake of Texas students and parents.

That is why I am directing the Texas Education Agency to investigate any criminal activity in our public schools involving the availability of pornography. During this investigation, I ask the agency to refer any instance of pornography being provided to minors under the age of 18 for prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

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November 10, 2021

Page 2

We have a responsibility to ensure that no Texas child is exposed to pornography or obscene content while in a Texas public school, and your investigation will help accomplish this mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:cwd