

Hallsville Independent School District

For the Consideration of the Board of Trustees

Date of Board Meeting: November 17, 2025

Agenda Item#: _____

Topic: Senate Bill 13

Background and Rationale:

Senate Bill 13 Requirements Related to School Library Materials

Each time a school library catalog is updated, the board of trustees must approve or reject the list of proposed library materials at the first open meeting of the board held 30 days or later after the list is made available to the public. Links to these lists are currently on our district webpage for public review.

Relationship to Strategic Plan:

Appropriate Reading Materials

Personnel Affected:

N/A

Budget Implications:

- ☐ Include in this year's budget
- ☐ Amendment of this year's budget required
- ☐ Increase in this year's budget required
- ☐ Expenditures required for next year's budget
- X ☐ N/A

Recommendation: Approve the List of Recommended Library Books provided at the October Board Meeting

Shauna Hittle

Signature

(Person Bringing Information to the Board)



Superintendent's Signature

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November 17, 2025

HISD School Board, John Martin and Shauna Hittle,

At the request of Assistant Superintendent Shauna Hittle, I was tasked with providing an additional layer of review for the proposed book purchases by HISD libraries for the 2025 Fall semester. To ensure a thorough review, the following resources were used in part or in whole, depending on titles and available information:

- Follett Titlewave-a professional library resource that gathers reviews by professional literature review sources such as Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, Horn Book, Booklist, and School Library Journal as well as publishers' suggested age range and subject tags (Note: This is always my primary source of information.)
- Goodreads-a collection of reviews by librarians, teachers, parents, and students that often provide a more unfiltered look at a book's contents.
- Afoma Umesi's Reading Middle Grade blog-A former teacher who reviews titles targeted for grades 5-8 in great detail, regularly noting potentially controversial subjects
- Amazon-reviews posted by readers here are, like Goodreads, often more revealing than those done by professionals
- For manga: websites for No Flying No Tights and MangaLibrarian
- My own extensive reading and detailed reviewing of titles for preschool through high school

Results of my research are as follows:

- Hallsville East Elementary-
 - Librarian Cara Hume removed *Mr. Beast* by Rachel Rose from the Lerner list and *A Kid is a Kid is a Kid* by Sara O'Leary from the Follett list.
 - No additional titles appear to contain any potentially problematic material.
- Hallsville North Elementary
 - No titles appear to contain any potentially problematic material.
- Hallsville West Elementary-
 - Librarian Joy Snider removed *Anthony Edwards vs. Dwyane Wade* by Matt Doeden from the Lerner list.
 - No additional titles appear to contain any potentially problematic material.
- Hallsville Intermediate School-

- Librarian Carli Proctor removed *Anthony Edwards vs. Dwyane Wade* by Matt Doeden and *The Jungle Kingdom* books 1-4 from the Lerner list. NOTE: *The Jungle Kingdom* may be added to the 2026 order if additional reviews become available.
- Also removed are *100% Unofficial Mr Beast* by Ben Wilson and *The Totally Awesome World of Mr Beast* by Neal Fischer, both from the Follett list.
- No additional titles appear to contain any potentially problematic material.
- Hallsville Junior High School-
 - Librarian Ashley Rawson removed *Meet Anthony Edwards* from the Lerner list.
 - *The Better to Eat You With* by Tehlor Kay Mejia and the 6 *Zombie Summer Camp* books by Jason Burns from the Follett order will stay on the list of books to order due to previous positive experiences with either author or imprint/publisher but will be read by Ashley before placing into circulation to ensure appropriateness for the campus.
 - *First Crush* by Cassandra Calin was temporarily removed from the Follett list but may be placed on a future order, pending June 2026 release date and additional professional reviews.
 - *Outsiders* by Betty Tang was removed from the Follett list with Ashley's intention to find a copy to read before possibly placing it on a future order.
 - *Hotel Magnifique* by Emily Taylor was removed from the Follett list.
 - No additional titles appear to contain any potentially problematic material.
- Hallsville High School-
 - Librarian Karla Carr removed *All the Noise at Once* by Deandra Davis, *The Martian* by Andy Weir, *The Rose Bargain* by Sasha P. Smith and *The Harper Effect* by Taryn Bashford from the Follett list.
 - Titles from the To the Limit series on the Follett order (*Off Road*, *On Edge*, and *Riptide*) will be removed at present but may be added to a later order pending additional reviews.
 - No additional titles appear to contain any potentially problematic material.

It is my belief that with hours of initial research and review done by HISD librarians and my added study of these titles, the Fall 2025 lists of books intended for purchase, with the noted changes, align with the HISD collection development policy, address the academic and recreational reading needs of our students, and align with the standards of our community.

Melanie J. Dulaney
Retired HISD librarian