

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis set out on March 8 to "expose the book ban hoax," claiming that only "pornographic and inappropriate" materials have been removed from Florida classrooms.

HIS CLAIMS ARE FALSE.

DISINFORMATION

Books are being removed from Florida classrooms and libraries because they are "pornographic, violent or inappropriate."

FACT

Books that have been banned in Florida include:



And dozens of books that include LGBTQ+ themes, protagonists of color, or that touch on race or racism.

DISINFORMATION

The most books banned in any district in Florida in 2023 is 19 books, in Duval And St. Johns counties. The total across the state is 175 books removed.

FACT

In 2023, to comply with new laws, some Florida schools were directed to **empty libraries and cover classroom bookshelves.**

- Teachers in Manatee County and Duval County were told they had to have **each book in their classrooms reviewed** before they could go back.
- Martin County **removed dozens of books after they were objected to by one person.**

In the 2021-22 school year PEN America documented **565 books banned in Florida schools.** Some were banned permanently, others temporarily pending investigations. The result is the same: Students can't access books.

DISINFORMATION

Florida has expanded African American history, including with HB7.

FACT

HB7, known as the Stop W.O.K.E. act and officially called the Individual Freedom Act, is an **educational gag order.** Among other things, it prevents teachers from discussing advantages or disadvantages based on race. Discussion of systemic racism is considered "critical race theory" and not allowed.

DISINFORMATION

Florida "has taken a stand against sexual material and pornography in the classroom."

FACT

No one is advocating for pornography in schools. Florida laws signed by DeSantis, however, are so broad they could sweep up a wide swath of books, including classics like **Romeo and Juliet** and **To Kill a Mockingbird.**