

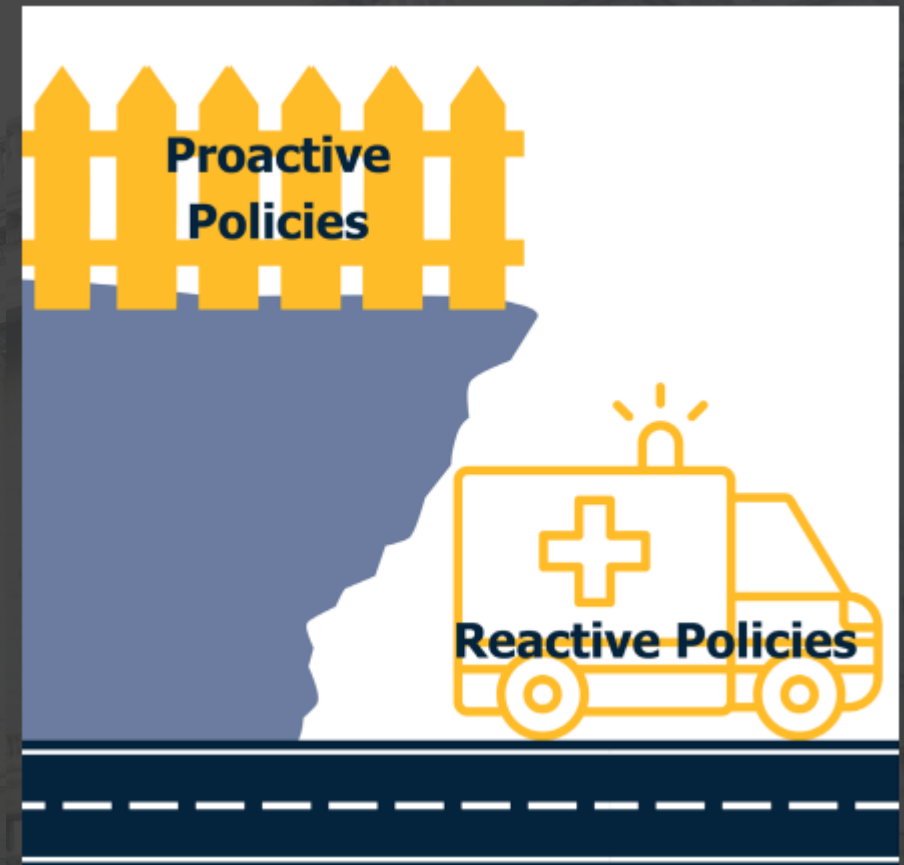
A Performance Audit of Sensitive Materials in Schools and A Review of School Library Books

A review of Policies, Processes and Questionable Content in Local Education
Agencies

Education Interim Committee
November 19th, 2025

50

A major theme throughout both the June 2025 audit and the Book Review released in October is that proactive processes will help prevent the need for reactive procedures.



Audit Released in June 2025

We evaluated Local Education Agencies (LEAs) management of sensitive materials in schools including

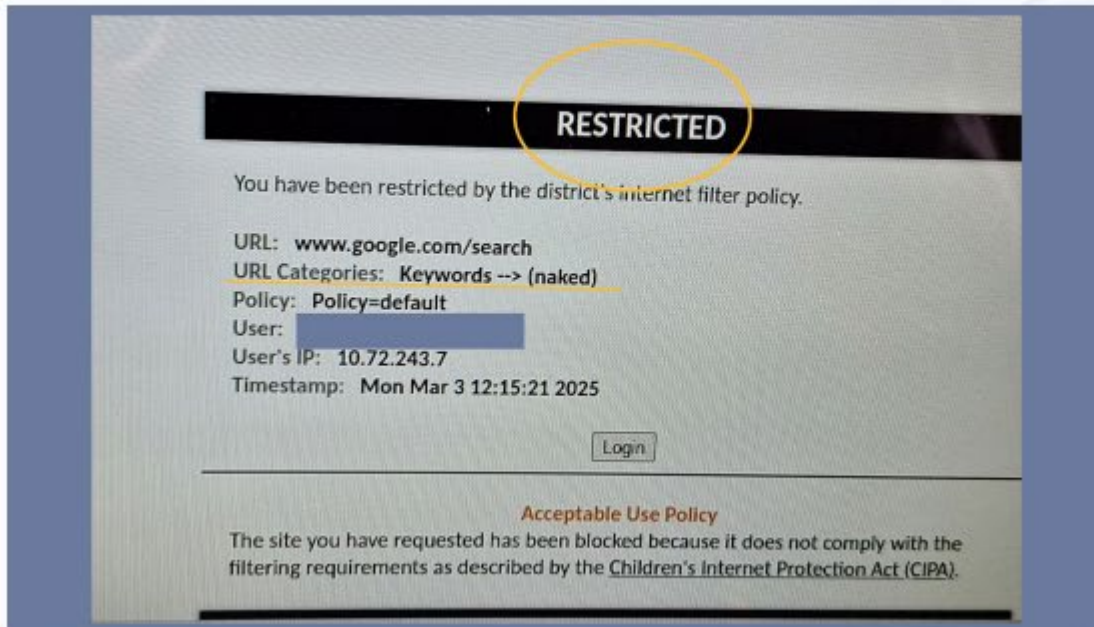
- Digital content
- Library books
- Classroom libraries

Our team reviewed **15** school districts and **2** charter schools focusing on filtering systems, policy compliance and communication practices.

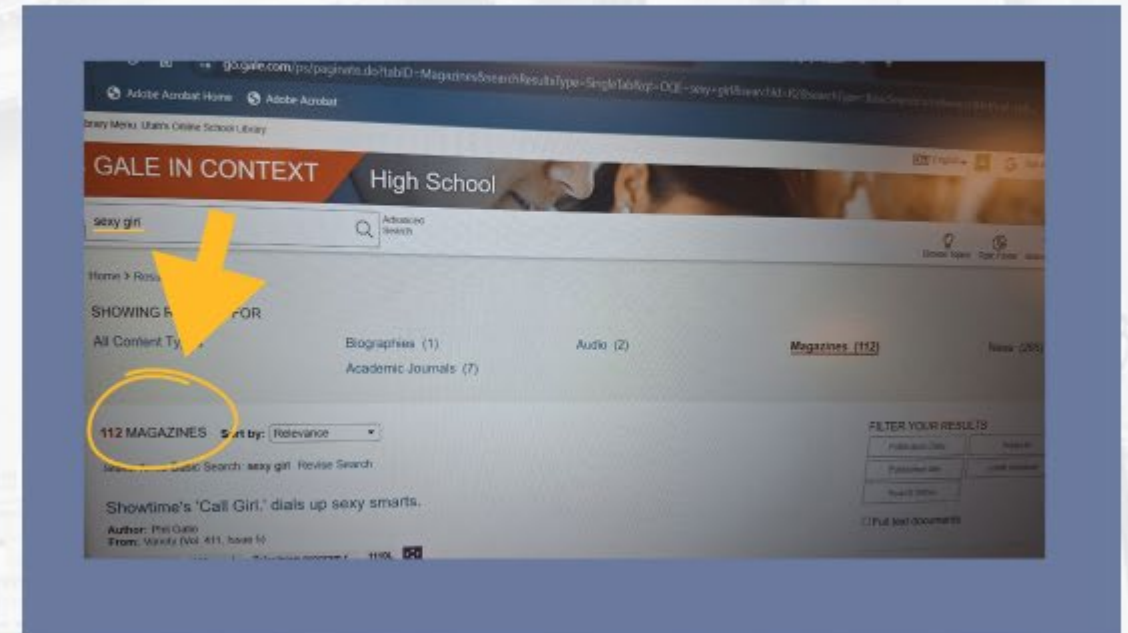
Chapter 1

LEAs inconsistently apply keyword filtering, especially on Utah's Online School Library (UOSL).

Filtered Keyword



Keyword Not Filtered



Chapter 2

Most LEAs are complying with the 2024 sensitive materials statute, but some confusion remains.

Book Challenges

One librarian told us they do not remove books until after a challenge has occurred. Librarians also expressed concern about book challenges occurring without challengers reading the full material, a difference often seen between objective and subjective reviews.



Review Committees

A school administrator reported that there were no review groups ready for the sensitive materials review process, but the librarian reported that there were.

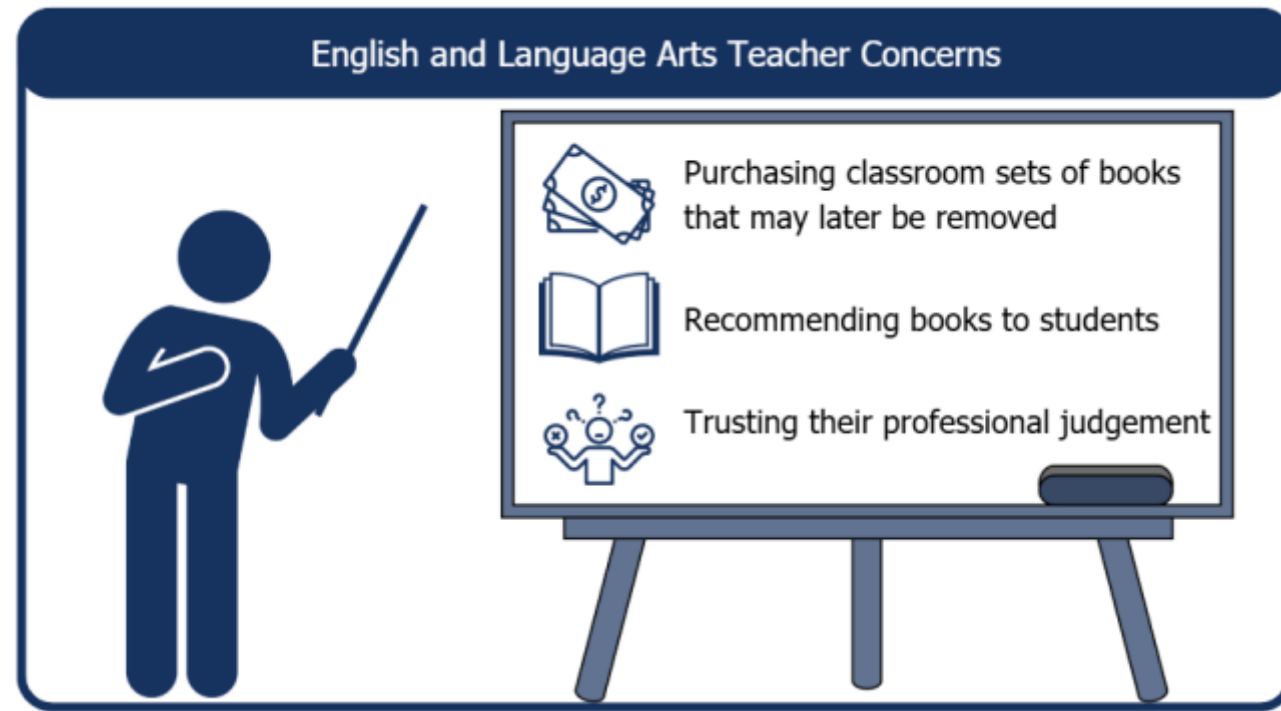
Challenge Process

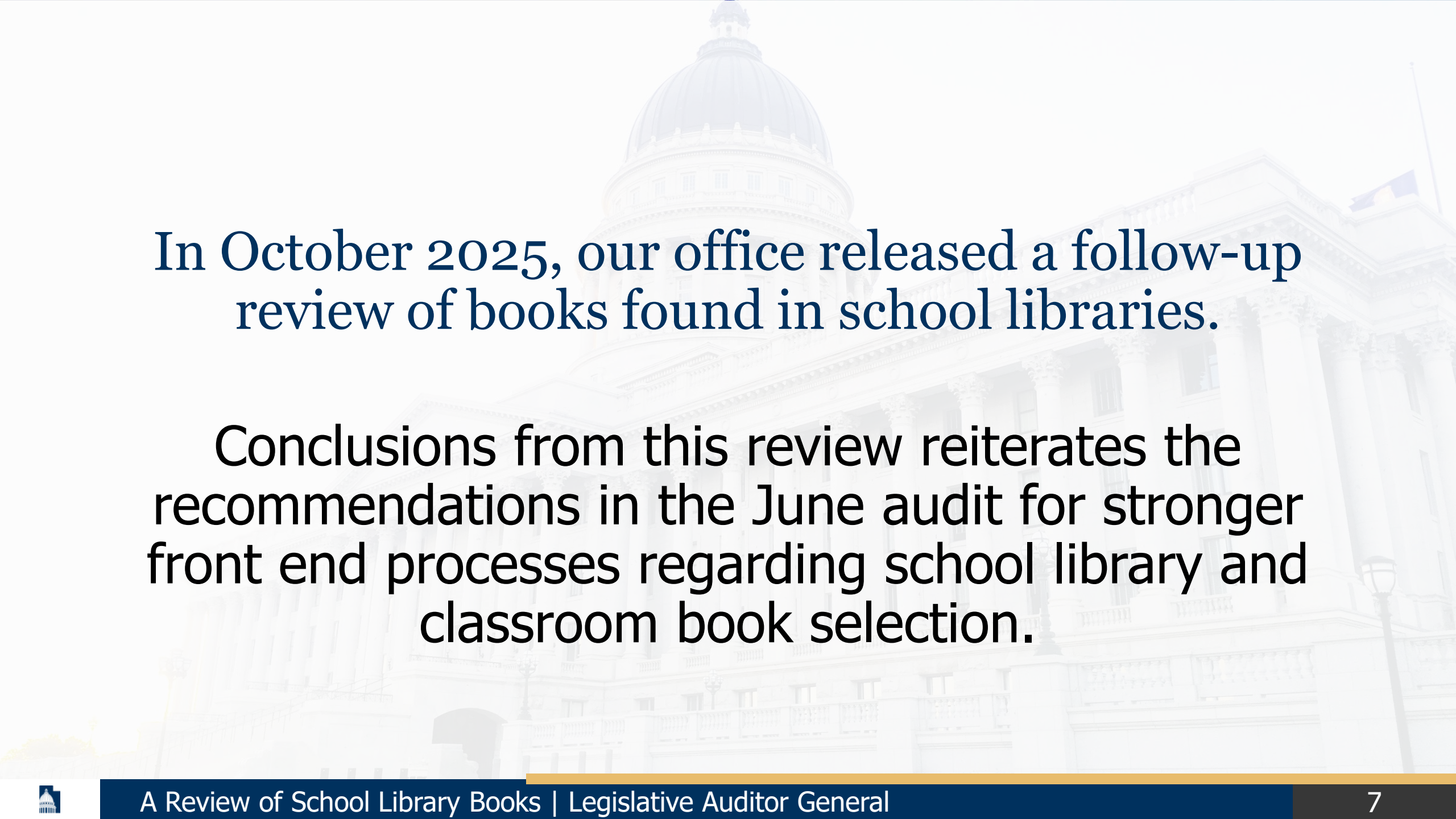
An administrator reached out to district staff for help understanding what the procedure was for book challenges.



Chapter 3

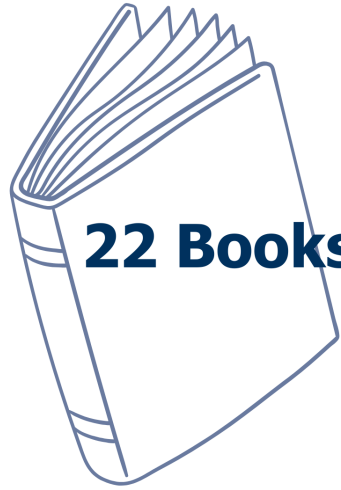
Due to lack of policies, teachers do not have enough clear guidance and support for managing classroom libraries.





In October 2025, our office released a follow-up review of books found in school libraries.

Conclusions from this review reiterates the recommendations in the June audit for stronger front end processes regarding school library and classroom book selection.



22 Books



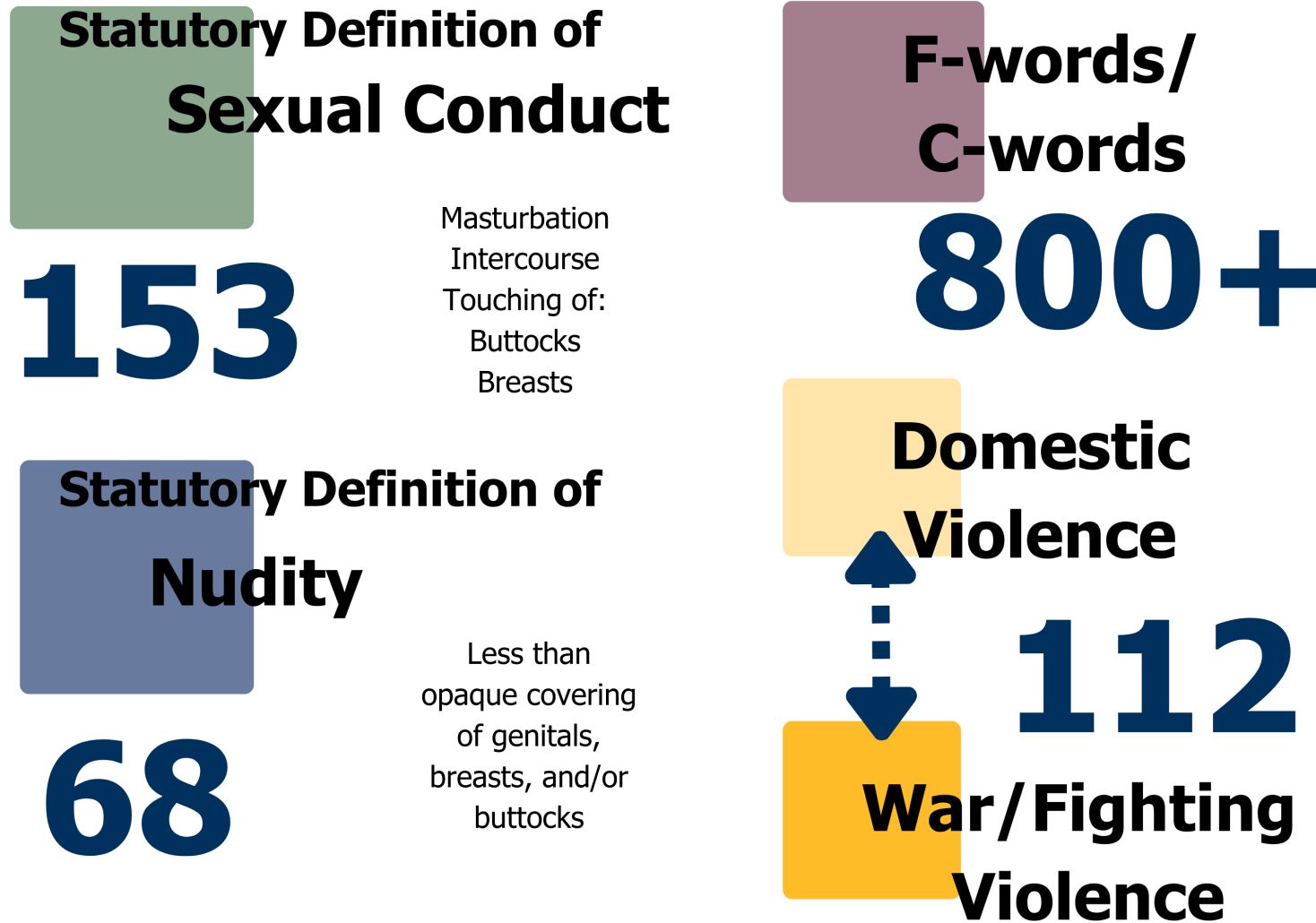
7 School Districts

42 Secondary Schools



8 Library Visits







Relevant Recommendations from A Performance Audit of Sensitive Materials in Schools (2025-11), June 2025

RECOMMENDATION 2.1

The Legislature should consider the policy question of whether to require Local Education Agencies to have a policy for library book selection processes.

RECOMMENDATION 3.2

Local Education Agencies should create and implement policies for selecting books for and maintaining classroom library collections.



Thank You



**LEGISLATIVE
AUDITOR
GENERAL**