

2026 Library Advisory Board Members

Current members fulfilling terms:

- Sherri McCall
- Lea Reed
- Donna Asbill
- Bernadette Thompson

Recommendations to fill open positions:

- Holly Morey (renewal)
- Marsha Rakestraw (renewal)
- Dorothy Foley (renewal)
- Staci Ely (renewal)
- Michelle Graham
- Diana Bevans
- Mary Newport
- Marcia Metzner

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Bernadette Thompson (ext. 196).

Common Sense Media (CSM) is an American nonprofit organization that reviews and provides ratings for media and technology with the goal of providing information on their suitability for children.^{[1][2][3][4]} It also funds research on the role of media in the lives of children^[5] and advocates publicly for child-friendly policies and laws regarding media and education.^{[2][6]}

Founded by Jim Steyer in 2003, CSM reviews and allows users to review media for adults and children. It has reviews of books, films, television shows, video games, apps, websites, podcasts, and YouTube channels and rates them in terms of age-appropriate educational content, such as "positive role models", "positive messages", diverse representation, "violence and scariness", "sexual content", "language", "consumerism" and more, for families and caregivers making media choices for their children. It has also developed a set of ratings to evaluate apps, games, and websites used in a learning environment.

By 2020, the organization's ratings and reviews reached more than 100 million households and its digital citizenship curriculum is taught by more than one million teachers in the U.S. and other countries.^[7]

Common Sense Media is a leading American nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families and educators navigate media and technology safely and effectively. Founded in 2003 by Jim Steyer, it provides age-based ratings and reviews for a wide range of entertainment.

Core Services

- **Media Reviews & Ratings:** Independent, research-based evaluations for movies, books, TV shows, video games, apps, and podcasts. Ratings assess content for ages 2 to 18, focusing on factors like violence, sexual content, language, and positive messages.
- **Common Sense Education:** Provides a K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum and edtech ratings used by over one million teachers to help students think critically and behave safely online.
- **Advocacy & Policy:** Pushes for child-friendly legislation, such as the Kids Online Safety Act and policies to hold tech companies accountable for children's well-being.

- **Original Research:** Conducts large-scale studies, like the Common Sense Census, which provides data on how media and technology affect children's development.

Membership & Access

- **Free Content:** Users can access a limited number of reviews and a library of Parenting Advice articles for free.
- **Paid Subscription:** Unlimited access to the website and mobile app requires a paid membership, which supports the organization's nonprofit operations.
- **Partnerships:** Content is distributed through various platforms including Netflix, Disney, and Comcast, reaching more than 100 million households.

Key Resources

- **Parents' Ultimate Guides:** Deep dives into popular platforms like TikTok, Roblox, and Fortnite.
- **Best Media Lists:** Curated recommendations such as "50 Movies All Kids Should Watch Before They're 12".
- **Common Sense Selections:** Recognitions for high-quality media that offer a great experience for families.

Discuss and take action on Subscription to Common Sence Media, a book rating system for parents and families. Approve the Library Advisory Board Members. Report on upcoming policy additions and revisions.