# Texas school district removes Virginia state flag content over nudity concerns



A school district in Texas has removed educational content featuring Virginia’s state flag and seal from the resources available to younger students, citing concerns over the depiction of nudity. The Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, located near Houston, took action late last year to exclude a section about Virginia from its online learning platform used by third to fifth graders—children typically aged eight to 11.

The removal came after the district determined that a key element of Virginia’s emblem—the Roman goddess Virtus standing over a slain tyrant, with her left breast exposed—violated the school board’s local library policy. This policy prohibits any “visual depictions or illustrations of frontal nudity” in materials accessible to elementary school students. The educational content in question was part of PebbleGo Next, an online research database utilised by students within the district.

The Texas Freedom to Read Project, an organisation opposing censorship and book bans within the state, criticised the decision and described the situation as “a new level of dystopian, book-banning, and censorship hell in Texas.” The group identified the removal following a public records request, which prompted the school district to confirm that the Virginia-related lesson had been taken down due to the aforementioned policy violation.

Virginia’s state flag and seal have long been a focal point for debates relating to modesty and symbolism. The emblem features Virtus, the Roman goddess of virtue, brandishing a sword and spear while standing over a fallen tyrant, a figure traditionally understood to represent King George III during America’s war of independence. Next to the image appears the Latin phrase “Sic Semper Tyrannis,” meaning “Thus always to tyrants.”

The exposed breast of Virtus has been the subject of periodic controversy. In 2010, the emblem again attracted national attention when disputes arose over what constituted sexually explicit material in Virginia’s school libraries. At that time, then-state attorney general Ken Cuccinelli responded to complaints by creating lapel pins that modified the seal to cover the exposed breast. The image itself dates back to 1776, intended to convey strength and resolve during the revolutionary period. It was intentionally designed to emphasise Virtus’s femininity; in 1901, Virginia officials explicitly mandated that the figure’s bared breast be retained to clearly represent a female character.

The emblem has undergone various adaptations over the centuries, and debates about its imagery have persisted. Speaking about the 2010 controversy, Larry Sabato, political scientist at the University of Virginia, remarked to a news outlet, “When you ask to be ridiculed, it usually happens. And it will happen here, nationally. This is classical art, for goodness’s sake.”

The Lamar Consolidated Independent School District’s removal of the Virginia-related educational material thus fits within a broader historical context of discussion about the flag's symbolism and appropriateness in educational settings. The district’s decision impacts access to state history learning resources for elementary-aged students and reflects ongoing tensions over content standards in school libraries and digital platforms.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/us-news/virginia-state-flag-banned-in-texas-school-district-the-reason-will-stun-you-101744932981583.html> - Confirms Lamar CISD's ban of Virginia's flag over nudity concerns and the removal of Virginia-related content from PebbleGo Next for elementary students.
* <https://www.axios.com/local/richmond/2025/04/17/texas-school-district-virginia-flag-ban-nudity> - Details the district's removal of Virginia's educational section due to its flag violating nudity policies, as uncovered by a FOIA request.
* <https://northernvirginiamag.com/news/2025/04/18/texas-school-district-bans-virginia-state-flag-for-frontal-nudity/> - Reports Lamar CISD's policy update prohibiting 'frontal nudity' and the specific removal of Virginia's state flag content from third to fifth grade resources.
* <https://www.txftrp.org/censorship_tx_even_state_flags_arent_safe> - Explains the Texas Freedom to Read Project's criticism of the ban and the policy changes tied to HB900, which led to the removal of Virginia-related materials.
* <https://www.instagram.com/p/DIkqzDft4c_/> - Social media post summarizing the ban and its rationale, emphasizing the focus on the exposed breast in Virginia's emblem.