

01-19 PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS AND FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

The School Board is committed to honoring the rights of parents and promoting parental involvement in the School District, and is committed to an active and honest partnership with parents and the community. The School Board recognizes the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their minor children. To this end, the School Board establishes the following standards and expectations. This policy supersedes all current practices and shall be deemed incorporated by reference, as if fully set forth, in the student code of conduct.

(A) Parent Rights

(1) The school district recognizes the following parental rights:

- (a) The right to direct the education and care of his or her minor child;
- (b) The right to direct the upbringing and the moral or religious training of his or her minor child;
- (c) The right, pursuant to §1002.20(2)(b) & (6), *Florida Statutes*, to apply to enroll his or her minor child in a public school, or as an alternative to public education, a private school, including a religious school, a home education program, or other available options, as authorized by law;
- (d) The right, pursuant to §1002.20(13), *Florida Statutes*, to access and review all school records relating to his or her minor child;
- (e) The right to make health care decisions for his or her minor child, unless otherwise prohibited by law;
- (f) The right to access and review all medical records of his or her minor child, unless prohibited by law or if the parent is the subject of an investigation of a crime committed against the minor child and a law enforcement agency or official requests that the information not be released;
- (g) The right to consent in writing before a biometric scan of his or her minor child is made, shared, or stored;
- (h) The right to consent in writing before any record of his or her minor child's blood or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is created, stored, or

shared, except as required by general law or authorized pursuant to a court order;

(i) The right to consent in writing before the school district makes a video or voice recording of his or her minor child unless such recording is to be used solely for the following purposes:

(i) A safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and discipline in the common areas of the school or on student transportation vehicles;

(ii) A purpose related to a legitimate academic or extracurricular activity;

(iii) A purpose related to regular classroom instruction;

(iv) Security or surveillance of buildings or grounds; or

(v) A photo identification card.

(i) The right to be notified promptly if an employee of the school district suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against his or her minor child, unless the incident has first been reported to law enforcement or the Department of Children and Families and notifying the parent would impede the investigation.

(2) This policy, however, does not preclude staff from acting in his or her official capacity within the scope of his or her authority.

(3) Any school district employee who encourages or coerces, or attempts to encourage or coerce, a minor child to withhold information from his or her parent may be subject to disciplinary action.

(4) Except as otherwise provided by law, a health care practitioner, or an individual employed by such health care practitioner will not provide or solicit or arrange to provide health care services or prescribe medicinal drugs to a minor child without first obtaining written parental consent

#### (B) Promoting Parent Involvement

A clear and positive relationship exists between parent involvement in their student's education and the academic progress the student makes in school. Therefore, the ~~Okaloosa County~~ school district is committed to an active and honest partnership with parents and community.

(1) Family involvement in Okaloosa County Schools includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Schools:

- (i) Encourage continuous communication between school and home through progress reports, report cards, newsletters, websites and other electronic means of communication, phone calls, conferences and flyers. If requested, provide translation in home language.
- (ii) Actively discuss and explain school and student performance profiles.
- (iii) Hold regular meetings to discuss students' education with parents.
- (iv) Invite parents to participate in the planning, reviewing, and implementation of new programs.
- (v) Host orientations to explain school policies and procedures.
- (vi) Offer training for parents and community involvement activities to help improve student achievement.
- (vii) Invite parent participation in school-based decisions making through SAC's, PTO's, and booster clubs.

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(2) Parents:

- (a) Participate in ongoing communication between home and school through progress reports, report cards, newsletters, websites and other electronic means of communication, phone calls, conferences and flyers. May request and receive information in translation of home language.
- (b) Discuss school and child performance profiles, including an interpretation of the results.
- (c) Attend regular meetings to discuss their child's education.
- (d) Participate in the planning, reviewing, and implementation of programs.
- (e) Attend orientations at the school sites to explain policies and procedures.
- (f) Attend training for parent and community involvement activities to help improve student achievement.
- (g) Participate in school-based decision making by involvement in SAC's, PTO's, and booster clubs.

(3) The school district shall provide parents with opportunities to participate in schools to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, school attendance, and discipline.

- (4) The school district shall provide parent opportunities to learn about his or her child's course of study, including the source of any supplemental education materials.
- (5) Parents will be able to object to instructional materials and other materials used in the classroom, based on beliefs regarding morality, sex, and religion or the belief that such materials are harmful in accordance with the procedures outlined in School Board Policy 03-05. "Instructional materials" means items having intellectual content that by design serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction of a subject or course. This may include other materials used in the classroom, including workbooks and worksheets, handouts, software, applications, and any digital media made available to students.
- (6) Parents can withdraw their minor child from any portion of the school district's comprehensive health education that relates to sex education or instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality if the parent provides a written objection to his or her minor child's participation. Parents shall be notified in advance of such course content so that he or she may withdraw his or her minor child from those portions of the course. Opting out of this instruction does not exempt the student from being responsible for the material on state, national or certification exams.~~[Note: Need to add sentence regarding state mandated testing]~~
- (7) Parents shall have the opportunity to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at his or her minor child's school by contacting the school to request such information.

(C) Parent Requests for Information

- (1) A parent may request, in writing, from the Superintendent the information required under this section. Within ten (10) days, the Superintendent, or his/her designee, will provide such information to the parent. If the Superintendent, or his/her designee, denies a parent's request for information or does not respond to the parent's request within ten (10) days, the parent may appeal the denial to the School Board. The School Board will place a parent's appeal on the agenda for its next public meeting. If it is too late for a parent's appeal to appear on the next agenda, the appeal will be included on the agenda for the subsequent meeting
- (2) The District will inform parents how to:
  - (a) Opt-out of any portion of comprehensive health education.

- (b) Receive information about school choice options.
- (c) Exempt his or her child from immunizations.
- (d) Review statewide standardized assessment results.
- (e) Qualify his or her child in gifted or special education programs.
- (f) Inspect instructional materials in accordance with Board Policy 03-01.
- (g) Access information relating to the school district's policies for promotion or retention, including high school graduation requirements.
- (h) Will have access to a school report card and be informed of his or her minor child's attendance requirements.
- (i) Access information relating to the state public education system, state standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and instructional materials requirements
- (j) Participate in parent-teacher associations and organizations that are sanctioned by the School Board or the Florida Department of Education.
- (k) Opt-out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by law.

Statutory Authority: §§1001.42, 1001.43 and Ch. 10141001.41(2), Florida Statutes  
Laws Implemented: §1002.23, and Ch. 1014, Florida Statutes  
Adopted: October 27, 2003  
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