

Policy © 1-401 Parents/Legal Guardian Rights in Education

Definitions

"Harmful material" means educational material that questions a parent or legal guardian's or student's beliefs or practices in sex, morality, and/or religion or is based on sexual content, violent content, or profane or vulgar language.

"Parent or Legal Guardian" means the natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a minor child who is a student in the District.

"Parents' Bill of Rights" means [A.R.S. § 1-602](#).

Parents' Protected Rights and Bill of Rights

In accordance with [A.R.S. § 1-601](#), the Governing Board recognizes that parents or legal guardians have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, health care and mental health of their children. The District shall not infringe on these rights without demonstrating that a compelling governmental interest as applied to the child involved is of the highest order, is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise serviced by a less restrictive means.

The Board and all District employees shall respect and comply with all rights enumerated in the Parents' Bill of Rights.

In accordance with [A.R.S. § 1-602](#), the Parents' Bill of Rights does not: (a) authorize or allow a parent or legal guardian to engage in conduct that is unlawful or to abuse or neglect a child in violation of Arizona laws; (b) prohibit courts, law enforcement officers or District employees from acting within the official scope of their authority; or (c) prohibit a court from issuing an order that is otherwise permitted by law.

A student's parent or legal guardian shall be promptly notified if any employee of the District suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against the student by a person other than the parent or legal guardian, unless the incident has been reported to a law enforcement agency and in the opinion of the law enforcement agency investigating the incident, notification of the parent or legal guardian would impede the investigation.

Development of Procedures

The Board shall adopt and periodically review procedures promoting the involvement of parents or legal guardians in educational activities and curriculum development. Such adoption and review shall be in consultation with parents or legal guardians, teachers, and administrators in the District. Procedures shall include the following:

1. A plan for parent or legal guardian participation in the schools that is designed to improve parent or legal guardian and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, attendance and discipline. The plan shall have the following elements:
 - . provide for the administration of a parent or legal guardian teacher satisfaction survey; and

- . if applicable, the requirements of [20 U.S.C. § 6318](#) – Strengthening and Improvement of Elementary and Secondary Schools - Parent and family engagement.
- 2. Procedures by which parents or legal guardians may learn about the course of study for their children and review learning materials, including the source of any supplemental educational materials.
- 3. Procedures by which parents or legal guardians who object to any learning material or activity on the basis that the material or activity is harmful may withdraw their children from the activity or from the class or program in which the material is used. Objection to learning material or an activity on the basis that the material or activity is harmful includes objection to the material or activity because it questions beliefs or practices in sex, morality or religion.
- 4. For schools that offer sex education curricula pursuant to [A.R.S. §§ 15-711](#) or [15-716](#) or pursuant to any rules adopted by the Arizona State Board of Education, procedures to prohibit the District from providing sex education instruction to a student unless the student's parent or legal guardian provides written permission for the student to participate in the sex education curricula.
- 5. Procedures by which parents or legal guardians will be notified in advance of and be given the opportunity to opt their children into any instruction, learning materials or presentations regarding sexuality, in courses other than formal sex education curricula.
- 6. Procedures by which parents or legal guardians may learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities that are part of the school curriculum, extracurricular clubs and activities that have been approved by the school.
- 7. Procedures by which parents or legal guardians may learn about parental rights and responsibilities under the laws of this state.

Access to Information

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District conveys the following information to parents or legal guardians at least annually:

1. a copy of this Policy;
2. information on where to find procedures adopted in accordance with this Policy;
and
3. the availability of the educational teaching background and experience in academic content subject areas for all instructional staff.

Delivery of information required by [A.R.S. § 15-102](#) shall be provided to parents/legal guardians either electronically or on a printed form.

Pursuant to [A.R.S. § 15-160.04](#), a parent/legal guardian may request the health care credentials of an individual who provides routine health care services to students in a school's health office, including any license, certificate, permit or registration to practice

a health care profession. The District is not required to release personally identifiable information about the individual.

A parent/legal guardian may also request information regarding emergency response training District employees are required to complete, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation training.

The Superintendent and principal of each school shall accept written requests for information during regular business hours. All requests from parents or legal guardians for information relating to the procedures and parental rights set forth herein shall be processed within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a written request. A parent or legal guardian who does not receive such information within ten (10) calendar days may submit a request in writing to the Board for consideration at the next regular Board meeting if the request can be properly noticed. Otherwise, the Board shall consider the request at the next Board meeting.

For the purpose of this Policy, standardized testing materials do not constitute “learning materials or activities” subject to procedures regarding inspection and objection.

Adopted:

Legal Authority:

[A.R.S. § 1-601](#)

[A.R.S. § 1-602](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-102](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-104](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-110](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-113](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-117](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-143](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-341](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-351](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-160.04](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-730](#)