

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 387

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

SCHOOLS: Revises the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:406.9(B)(introductory paragraph) and (2)(introductory
3 paragraph) and (a) and to enact R.S. 17:406.9(B)(2)(e) through (h) and (10) through
4 (13), relative to the rights of parents of public school children; to provide for the
5 disclosure of certain student records to parents; to provide for parental notification;
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:406.9(B)(introductory paragraph) and (2)(introductory paragraph)
9 and (a) are hereby amended and reenacted and 17:406.9(B)(2)(e) through (h) and (10)
10 through (13) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §406.9. Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools

12 * * *

13 B. Parents of public school children who have not reached the age of
14 majority shall have all of the following rights:

15 * * *

16 (2) To inspect and receive a photocopy, either at no cost or at a reasonable
17 cost that is set forth in the official rules and regulations of the school governing
18 authority, their child's school records; and to receive a copy of their child's records
19 within ten business days of submitting a written request, either electronically or on
20 paper. Parents shall not be required to appear in person for the purpose of requesting

1 or validating a request for their child's school records, and there shall be no charge
2 to receive such records electronically. School records ~~including~~ include all of the
3 following:

4 (a) Academic records, including but not limited to results of interim or
5 benchmark assessments.

6 * * *

7 (e) Records of discipline.

8 (f) Records of attendance.

9 (g) Records associated with a child's screening for learning challenges,
10 exceptionalities, plans for an Individualized Education Program, or Individual
11 Accommodation Plan.

12 (h) Any other student-specific file, document, or other materials that are
13 maintained by the school.

14 * * *

15 (10) To receive from the school the annual school calendar, no later than
16 thirty days prior to the beginning of the school year, and to be notified in writing as
17 soon as feasible of any revisions to such calendar. Such calendar shall be posted to
18 the school's website and shall include, at a minimum, student attendance days and
19 any event that requires parent or student attendance outside of normal school days
20 or hours.

21 (11) To receive in writing each year or to view on the school's website a
22 comprehensive listing of any required fee and its purpose and use and a description
23 of how economic hardships may be addressed.

24 (12) To receive in writing upon request or to view on the school's website
25 a description of the school's required uniform for students, including an estimated
26 total cost per uniform.

27 (13) To be informed if their child's academic performance is such that it
28 could threaten the child's ability to be promoted to the next grade level and to be
29 offered an in-person meeting with the child's classroom teacher and school leader to

1 discuss any resources or strategies available to support and encourage the child's
2 academic improvement.

3 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 387 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Edmonds

Abstract: Amends the "Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools".

Present law provides that the parents of public school children shall have all of the following rights:

- (1) To examine the textbooks, lesson plans, curriculum and supplemental material used in their child's classroom.
- (2) Inspect their child's school records, including academic records, medical or health records, records of any mental health counseling, or records of any vocational counseling.
- (3) To be notified when medical services are being offered to their child.
- (4) To be notified if a criminal action is deemed to have been committed against their child.
- (5) To be notified before the school allows law enforcement personnel to question their child.
- (6) To be notified before their child is taken or removed from the school campus.
- (7) To request and expect their child's family religious beliefs to be respected.
- (8) To receive written notice and to opt out of any surveys that include invasive questions about student's sexual experiences or attractions, the student's family beliefs, morality, religion, or political affiliations as well as any mental health or psychological problems of the student or a family member.
- (9) To receive written notice and to opt out of controversial instruction on topics associated with sexual activity.

Proposed law retains present law except for the following revisions:

- (1) Instead of providing for rights of parents of public school children, provides for rights of parents of public school children who have not reached the age of majority.
- (2) Relative to (2) above, further provides for parents' rights to receive a photocopy of the school records at no cost or a reasonable cost within 10 business days of a written request. Further defines academic records to include interim or benchmark assessments.

Proposed law further provides that parents of public school children who have not reached the age of majority have the following additional rights:

- (1) To receive records of attendance.
- (2) To receive records of discipline.
- (3) To receive records associated with a student's screening for learning challenges, exceptionalities, an Individualized Education Program, or Individual Accommodation Plan.
- (4) To receive any other student-specific file, document, or other materials that are maintained by the school.
- (5) To receive from the school the annual school calendar no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the school year. At a minimum, school officials shall include on the calendar student attendance days and any events that require parent or student attendance outside of normal school hours.
- (6) To annually receive in writing or to view on the school's website:
 - (a) A list of required fees and their purpose and use.
 - (b) A description of the required student uniform, including the total estimated cost per uniform.
 - (c) The school calendar, to include student attendance days and events requiring student or parent attendance outside of school hours. Parents must receive or be able to view such calendar no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the school year.
- (7) To be informed if their child's low academic performance could affect their child's ability to advance to the next grade level. Further provides such parents have a right to be offered a meeting with the student's teacher and school leader to discuss strategies and resources to improve the student's academic performance.

(Amends R.S. 17:406.9(B)(intro. para.) and (2)(intro. para.) and (a); Adds R.S. 17:406.9(B)(2)(e)-(h) and (10)-(13))