
DIGEST

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HB 387 Original

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))