

CROSSWALK OF GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S

PROPOSED PARENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS TO EXISTING STATE LAW AND CURRENT DISTRICT POLICY

Current Law Texas Education Code (Enacted 1995)

CHAPTER 26. PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES Sec. 26.001. PURPOSE.

Parents are partners with educators, administrators, and school district boards of trustees in their children's education. Parents shall be encouraged to actively participate in creating and implementing educational programs for their children.

The rights listed in this chapter are not exclusive. This chapter does not limit a parent's rights under other law. Unless otherwise provided by law, a board of trustees, administrator, educator, or other person may not limit parental rights. Each board of trustees shall provide for procedures to consider complaints that a parent's right has been denied.

Each board of trustees shall cooperate in the establishment of ongoing operations of at least one parent-teacher organization at each.

GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S PROPOSED PARENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

PLANO ISD LOCAL POLICY ALIGNMENT

PARENTS ARE PRIMARY DECISION MAKERS

Amend the Texas Constitution to reinforce that parents are the main decision makers in all matters involving their minor children. Parental decisions cannot be overridden without due process of law.

Common sense dictates that parents are, in fact, the main decision makers in matters involving their children. However, some have challenged this historic right of parents. Under the Parental Bill of Rights, Governor Abbott proposes amending the Texas Constitution to ensure this principle is a guaranteed right in Texas for generations to come.

Policy AE

Parents will be full partners with educators in the education of their children. Districts will develop a vision statement and comprehensive goals.

Policy EHBA

Eligible students with a disability will enjoy the right to a free and adequate public education free from discrimination.

Policy EMB

A parent may remove their child from a class or school activity that conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs. Controversial topics must be taught free from bias and topics must be age appropriate.

Policy FEA

Cumplusatory attendance is required of any student at least six years of age, or enrolled in Pre-K or kindergarten program, for the entire period the program is offered.

Policy FNG

A district shall take no action abridging the freedom of speech or the right of the people to petition the board for redress of grievances. Local policy outlines the process for a grievance.

ACCESS TO COURSE CURRICULUM

Expand parents' rights to access course curriculum and all material that is available in any education setting for their student through online posting and other methods so parents know what topics will be taught.

In order for parents to be involved in their child's education, they must know what their children are being taught. Under the Parental Bill of Rights, Governor Abbott would require schools to provide course curriculum at the beginning of every semester, and to make that information available through online posting or other methods - making it easily accessible for parents.

Ensure that a parent's concerns with school curriculum or policies are considered quickly and respectfully and that parents are given the respect they deserve by teachers, school administrators, and all other school employees.

Local school districts and schools have local grievance procedures when parents file a formal complaint with a school. However, each school district as its own timeline and complaint forms, resulting in a lengthy process. Additionally, there have been reports of some school districts prohibiting parents from voicing their concerns about school curriculum and policies. Under Governor Abbott's proposal, parents would have a right to voice their concerns to school officials, including school administrators, and those officials would be required to consider parents' concerns quickly and respectfully.

Policy EF

Parents are able to review instructional materials, tests (after administration thereof), and observe virtual instruction, if the student is learning remotely. Also addresses selection of instructional materials.

Policy EHAA

The District shall provide instruction in the essential knowledge and skills at appropriate grade levels in the foundation and enrichment curriculum. A District may not use Common Core State Standards.

Policy EF

A parent of a District student, any employee, or any District resident may formally challenge an instructional resource used in the District's educational program on the basis of appropriateness.

Policy FNG

Enumerates parental rights in Ch. 26 of Texas Educatoin Code and the local policy defines process to file a complaint or a grievance.

PROTECTING STUDENTS

Require that schools are not collecting unnecessary personal data about students and that schools are not sharing or selling any student data outside of the Texas public education system.

School districts may collect data on students to assist them in making more informed policy decisions, increasing accountability, and determining school funding. Under Governor Abbott's proposal, the privacy of each student would be protected by prohibiting the selling or sharing of students' personal data outside of the Texas public education system.

Policy FL

Transcripts for each student (defined by Commissioner) must be maintained permanently by the district. Personally identifiable information in education records shall not be released without the written consent of the student's parents, with enumerated exceptions, such as transfers to another school.

Ensure that any educational personnel convicted of providing minors access to pornographic materials lose all their educational public credentials and state licensing, forfeit their retirement benefits, and be placed on the do not hire list.

Recently, Texas parents found pornographic materials in school libraries, prompting Governor Abbott to direct the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and the State Board of Education to develop statewide standards to prevent the presence of pornographic books in school libraries. Under the Parental Bill of Rights, any educational personnel convicted of providing minors access to pornographic materials would lose their public credentials and state licensing. In addition, those individuals would lose their retirement benefits and be placed on the TEAs "Do Not Hire Registry," ensuring that they never teach at a Texas public school again.

Policy DF

A District shall discharge or refuse to hire a person listed on TEA's registry of persons who are not eligible to be employed, including an offense requiring registration as a sex offender under Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 62. A Superintendent may terminate a Ch. 21 contract employee if he/she becomes aware that a contract employee's certificate has been revoked by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), or the individual has been convicted of or has received deferred adjudication for a felony offense.

NOTIFYING PARENTS OF THEIR RIGHTS

Empower parents by ensuring school districts provide them the Texas Parental Bill of Rights, including providing parents with information and options for sending their children to charter school, magnet schools and schools in other districts.

Governor Abbott proposes on bolstering parental rights by requiring schools to post the Texas Parental Bill of Rights online so parents have access to all their rights as they relate to their child's education. Additionally, school districts would be required to provide parents with information and options for charter schools, magnet schools and other public schools for their children.

Give parents the option to decide if their child should repeat a course or grade level, instead of leaving that decision in the sole hands of the school district.

Last year, Governor Abbott signed a law giving parents more say in whether their children should repeat a course or grade level, instead of being promoted to the next grade. Though this law is permanent for students in Pre-K - 3rd grade, it was only an option for older students going into the 2021-2022 school year. Under Governor Abbott's proposal, parents would retain the ability to make this option for their child all throughout their Pre-K - 12 grade career.

Student Code of Conduct

Notices to parents are typically addressed through the District's Student Handbook, which may be found on the District website. Information about charter school options are publicly available.

Policy EIE

A student may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level. A parent or guardian may elect for a student to, for grades 1 through 3, repeat the grade in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year.