Parents have the right to INFORMATION about...

School policies, rules and regulations in the areas of:

- **health and medical** such as
  - required medical examinations and inoculations, and
  - procedures to follow if your child is sick in school
- **attendance** such as
  - number of days a student may be absent or late without a penalty
  - policy on excused and unexcused absences
  - responsibility of parents if your child is sick and cannot attend school
  - school responsibility to inform you if your child is absent
- **enrollment and placement**
  - right to enrollment in your neighborhood school
  - closed enrollment exceptions
  - open enrollment guidelines
  - student transfer
- **discipline**
  - behavior standards
  - grounds for suspension and expulsion
  - due process procedures
- **school year calendar**
  - first and last day of school
  - parent-teacher conference and report card pick-up days
  - school holidays
  - other parent meeting dates
- **sources of all rules and policies** *(state law, local or school policy)*

Curriculum including

- what is being taught and how the curriculum is organized
- if or how students are grouped for instruction
- what teaching methods are being used
- whether school materials such as textbooks and workshops can be borrowed

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what special programs are offered: gifted, after school, arts, etc.
what types of bilingual programs are offered, and how children are enrolled in them.

- **Academic requirements** such as
  - criteria for student evaluation (testing and assessment)
  - homework policy
  - standards for promotion and graduation

- **Principal and teacher background and experience**

- **Grievance procedures**

*Parents have the right to ACCESS to ...*

- visit the school and your child’s classroom after making arrangements with the school office and the classroom teacher;
- review all records kept by the school about your child and to challenge inaccurate, misleading, or discriminatory information or material which you believe is an invasion of privacy;
- see your child’s teacher and the school principal without red tape and delay;
- have individual teacher conferences several times a year, in privacy, with a translator if needed, and at a time convenient to both the parent and the teacher.

*Parents have the right to PARTICIPATE AND BE CONSULTED when ...*

- appealing school decisions, if you disagree
- organizing and participating in parent organizations
- attending school board meetings (most states also provide the right to speak at these meetings)

To the extent possible, parents should also participate in such decisions as changing a student’s placement, retaining a student, and arranging extra help if your child is struggling academically.

*This material is adapted from “Parent Involvement”, Center for Law and Education 1992*