

PURE *FACT SHEET*

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 schools
 - 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

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