

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

FILE: KB

TITLE: Parent/Family Involvement

POLICY:

The School Board of Orange County, Florida ("Board") recognizes that a child's academic success is a shared responsibility between the school and family. To this end, the Board supports the development and implementation of Parent Involvement Programs at each school, which shall involve parents/legal guardians at grade levels K-12 in a variety of roles.

(1) Components of Successful Parent Involvement Programs:

Parent Involvement Programs should be comprehensive, coordinated in nature, and include parents and guardians that are diverse in culture, language, and needs. Parent Involvement Programs should include, but not be limited to, the following components of established, successful Parent Involvement Programs:

- (a) Regular and meaningful two-way communication between home and school.
- (b) Support and promotion of responsible parenting techniques.
- (c) Recognition that parents/legal guardians play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- (d) Clear communication to parents/legal guardians that their support and assistance is welcomed and encouraged in their schools.
- (e) Recognition that parents/legal guardians are full partners in the decisions that impact the education of their children.
- (f) Community resources are sought, maximized, and made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

(2) Tools for Implementing Successful Parent Involvement Programs.

To implement a successful Parent Involvement Program, the Board supports professional development opportunities for school-based administrators, teachers, and staff to enhance an understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

(3) Requirements for use of certain Title 1 federal funds for purchase of food to the extent permitted by the applicable federal program guidelines for Parent/Family Involvement activities in the Orange County Public Schools ("OCPS") district.

The purchase of food using Title 1 federal funds for Parent/Family Involvement activities within the OCPS district shall be allowed so long as applicable federal program guidelines are followed and the following conditions are met:

- (a) Expenses are reasonable and necessary; and
- (b) The activity is at a time when families would normally eat a meal.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: Sections 1000.21; 1001.32; 1001.41; 1001.42; 1001.43; 1001.51; 1001.54; 1002.20; 1002.23; 1008.25; and 1012.98, Florida Statutes.

20 U.S.C. Section 6318 and 34 CFR Section 76.700

TITLE: Rights of Parents and Legal Guardians (Parents' Bill of Rights)

POLICY:

The School Board of Orange County, Florida (the "Board") is committed to honoring the rights of parents/legal guardians and promoting parental involvement in the district. In accordance with HB 241, the Parents' Bill of Rights (2021), which was codified in Chapter 1014, Florida Statutes, the Board recognizes the fundamental rights of parents/legal guardians to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their minor children.¹ Pursuant to the requirements contained in Chapter 1014, the Board establishes the following standards and expectations.

- (1) Parent/Legal Guardian Rights.
 - (a) The Board recognizes the following rights of a parent/legal guardian:
 - 1. The right to direct the education and care of his or her minor child;
 - 2. The right to direct the upbringing and the moral or religious training of his or her minor child;
 - 3. The right to apply to enroll his or her minor child in a public school, or as an alternative, a private school, including a religious school, a home education program, or other available options;
 - 4. The right to access and review all school records (as defined in the Florida Statutes) relating to his or her minor child;

¹ Pursuant to Section 743.067, Florida Statutes, a student certified as an unaccompanied homeless youth is not considered a "minor" for purposes of this Policy and is therefore able to direct his/her own education.

5. The right to make health care decisions for his or her minor child, unless otherwise prohibited by law;
6. The right to access and review all medical records of his or her minor child, unless prohibited by law or if the parent is the subject of an investigation of a crime committed against the minor child and a law enforcement agency or official requests that the information not be released;
7. The right to consent in writing before a biometric scan of his or her minor child is made, shared, or stored;
8. The right to consent in writing before any record of his or her minor child's blood or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is created, stored, or shared, except as required by general law or authorized pursuant to a court order;
9. The right to consent in writing before the school district makes a video or voice recording of his or her minor child unless such recording is to be used for the following purposes:
 - a. A safety demonstration,
 - b. A legitimate academic or extracurricular activity,
 - c. A purpose related to regular classroom instruction,
 - d. Security or surveillance of buildings, grounds, or school district transportation, and/or
 - e. A photo identification card.
10. The right to be notified promptly if an employee of the school district suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against his or her minor child, unless the incident has first been reported to law enforcement or the Department of Children and Families and notifying the parent/legal guardian would impede the investigation.
11. The right to be notified if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student.
12. The right to review and provide permission before a well-being questionnaire or healthcare screening is provided to a student in kindergarten through grade 3.
13. This policy, however, does not preclude a Board employee from acting in his or her official capacity within the scope of his or her authority.

- (b) Any Board employee who encourages or coerces, or attempts to encourage or coerce, a minor child to withhold information from his or her parent/legal guardian may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, a health care practitioner, or an individual employed by such health care practitioner, will not provide or solicit or arrange to provide health care services or prescribe medicinal drugs to a minor child without first obtaining written parental consent.
- (2) Promoting Involvement.
- (a) The school district shall provide parents/legal guardians with opportunities to participate in schools to improve parent, guardian, and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, school attendance, and discipline.
 - (b) The school district shall provide a parent/legal guardian with opportunities to learn about his or her child's course of study, including the source of any supplemental education materials.
 - (c) Parents/legal guardians will be able to object to instructional materials and other materials used in the classroom based on beliefs regarding morality, sex, and religion or the belief that such materials are harmful. "Instructional materials" means items having intellectual content that by design serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction of a subject or course. This may include other materials used in the classroom, including workbooks and worksheets, handouts, software, applications, and any digital media made available to students.
 1. If a parent/legal guardian chooses to opt his or her minor child out of instruction, his or her minor child will not receive the instruction. However, the opt out will not prevent the teacher from providing that instruction to the remaining students during the regularly scheduled class period.
 2. If a parent/legal guardian chooses to opt his or her minor child out of instruction that is mandated curriculum pursuant to the Florida Statutes, his or her minor child student will not be provided alternative assignments and lack of participation may affect the child's final grade and/or award of academic credit.
 3. Participation in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, and/or similar programs mandates required curriculum. Students participating in these programs cannot opt out of the required curriculum. If a parent/legal guardian objects to his or her minor child's participation, the child will be transferred out of the program.
 - (d) Parents/legal guardians can withdraw their minor child from any portion of the school district's comprehensive health education that relates to sex education or instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality if the parent/legal guardian provides a written objection to his or her minor child's participation. Parents/legal guardians shall be notified in

advance of such course content so that they may withdraw their minor child from those portions of the course.

- (e) Parents/legal guardians shall have the opportunity to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at their minor child's school.
- (3) Requests for Information.
- (a) A parent/legal guardian may request, in writing, from the district school superintendent by sending an email to questions@ocps.net the information required under this section. Within ten (10) days, the district school superintendent or designee will provide such information to the parent/legal guardian. If the district school superintendent or designee denies a request from a parent/legal guardian for information or does not respond to the parent/legal guardian's request within ten (10) days, the parent/legal guardian may appeal the denial to the Board. The Board Chair or Vice Chair will place an appeal from a parent/legal guardian on the agenda for its next public meeting. If it is too late for an appeal from a parent/legal guardian to appear on the next agenda, the appeal will be included on the agenda for the subsequent meeting
 - (b) The school district will inform parents/legal guardians on the district's website (<https://parentsbillofrights.ocps.net>) how to:
 1. Opt out of comprehensive health education.
 2. Receive information about school choice options.
 3. Exempt a child from immunizations.
 4. Review statewide standardized assessment results.
 5. Qualify a child in gifted or special education programs.
 6. Inspect instructional materials.
 7. Access information relating to the school district's policies for promotion or retention, including high school graduation requirements.
 8. Access a school report card and be informed of his or her minor child's attendance requirements.
 9. Access information relating to the state public education system, state standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and instructional materials requirements
 10. Participate in parent-teacher associations and organizations that are sanctioned by a district school board or the Department of Education.
 11. Opt out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by law.

12. Provide consent to healthcare services for their children.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: Chapter 1014 and Sections 1001.42 and 1001.43, Florida Statutes

ADOPTED: 01/17/2012
REVISED: 12/13/2022