

Family and Student Rights

As a parent, you can advocate for your child's education and request services they need. This guide will help you understand and protect your child's rights in school.



Education Rights

- All school-age children may access free public education
- Schools cannot ask for proof of citizenship, immigration status, or a Social Security card
- Schools can ask for immunization records, proof of age, and proof of residency
- Your child has the right to receive grade-level instruction
- Your child has the right to equal access to all school facilities and programs, such as:
 - Computer Labs
 - Science Labs
 - Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs
 - Sports, Clubs, and Honor Societies
- Schools cannot exclude your child from specialized programs, including honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses

Language Rights

- Schools must communicate with families in a language they understand about:
 - Programs
 - Services
 - Activities
- Schools must request parent permission in a language they understand
- Schools can assess students' English language proficiency
- Schools must provide English language services for students who need them
- You have the right to accept or decline English language services for your child

Parent/Guardian Rights

- Parents have the right to access their child's education records (if the child is under 18)
- Schools cannot share student records without parent permission
- Schools must provide information in your language and help you understand documents before you sign them
- Schools must obtain permission before testing your child for a disability
- Schools cannot delay disability evaluations because of English language proficiency
- Schools must provide both disability-related services and English language support if your child needs both
- Schools must assess your child appropriately (in their native language if necessary)
- Schools will provide students with a space to pray that does not disrupt learning
- Homeless students have the right to immediate enrollment, transportation, and support services
- Students may access free and reduced-price meal programs

Safety & Protection

- Schools must provide a safe and supportive environment for all students
- Schools must be free from bullying and harassment
- Schools cannot discriminate based on:
 - Race
 - Color
 - National Origin
 - Sex
 - Disability
- Other students or staff cannot:
 - Bully, threaten, or injure your child
 - Destroy your child's property
 - Create a hostile environment
- Students have the right to be free from harassment based on:
 - Ethnic or religious clothing
 - Being from another country
 - Not being proficient in English
 - Their sex