



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Kathy Hoffman
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Arizona Department of Education Parental Rights Handbook

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B. This state, any political subdivision of this state or any other governmental entity shall not infringe on these rights without demonstrating that the compelling governmental interest as applied to the child involved is of the highest order, is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by a less restrictive means.

[A.R.S. § 1-602 – Parents’ bill of rights: definition](#)

A. All parental rights are reserved to a parent of a minor child without obstruction or interference from this state, any political subdivision of this state, any other governmental entity or any other institution, including:

1. The right to direct the education of the minor child.
2. All rights of parents identified in title 15, including the right to access and review all records relating to the minor child.
3. The right to direct the upbringing of the minor child.
4. The right to direct the moral or religious training of the minor child.
5. The right to make health care decisions for the minor child, including rights pursuant to sections 15-873, 36-2271 and 36-2272, unless otherwise prohibited by law.
6. The right to access and review all medical records of the minor child unless otherwise prohibited by law or the parent is the subject of an investigation of a crime committed against the minor child and a law enforcement official requests that the information not be released.
7. The right to consent in writing before a biometric scan of the minor child is made pursuant to section 15-109.
8. The right to consent in writing before any record of the minor child's blood or deoxyribonucleic acid is created, stored or shared, except as required by section 36-694, or before any genetic testing is conducted on the minor child pursuant to section 12-2803 unless authorized pursuant to section 13-610 or a court order.
9. The right to consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions makes a video or voice recording of the minor child, unless the video or voice recording is made during or as a part of a court proceeding, by law enforcement officers during or as part of a law enforcement investigation, during or as part of an interview in a criminal or child safety services investigation or to be used solely for any of the following:
 - (a) Safety demonstrations, including the maintenance of order and discipline in the common areas of a school or on pupil transportation vehicles.
 - (b) A purpose related to a legitimate academic or extracurricular activity.

Equity for all students

- (j) The right to access instructional materials pursuant to section 15-730.
- (k) The right to receive a school report card pursuant to section 15-746.

7. Efforts to support, with appropriate training, parents as shared decision-makers and to encourage membership on school councils.
8. The recognition of the diversity of parents and the development of guidelines that promote widespread parental participation and involvement in the school at various levels.
9. The development of preparation programs and specialized courses for certificated employees and administrators that promote parental involvement.
10. The development of strategies and programmatic structures at schools to encourage and enable parents to participate actively in their children's education.

C. The governing board may adopt a policy to provide to parents the information required by this section in an electronic form.

D. A parent shall submit a written request for information pursuant to this section during regular business hours to either the school principal at the school site or the superintendent of the school district at the office of the school district. Within ten days after receiving the request for information, the school principal or the superintendent of the school district shall either deliver the requested information to the parent or submit to the parent a written explanation of the reasons for the denial of the requested information. If the request for information is denied or the parent does not receive the requested information within fifteen days after submitting the request for information, the parent may submit a written request for the information to the school district governing board, which shall formally consider the request at the next scheduled public meeting of the governing board if the request can be properly noticed on the agenda. If the request cannot be properly noticed on the agenda, the governing board shall formally consider the request at the next subsequent public meeting of the governing board.

E. For the purposes of this section, "parent" means the natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a minor child.

[A.R.S. § 15-110 – Rights of students at public educational institutions; limitations; definition](#)

A. A public educational institution shall not discriminate against students or parents on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression.

B. If an assignment requires a student's viewpoint to be expressed in coursework, artwork or other written or oral assignments, a public educational institution shall not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student's academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the coursework or assignment.

C. Students in public educational institutions may pray or engage in religious activities or religious expression before, during and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonreligious activities or expression.

H. For the purposes of this section, "public educational institution" means any of the following:

1. A school district, including its schools.
2. A charter school.
3. An accommodation school.
4. The Arizona state schools for the deaf and the blind.

A.R.S. § 15-113 – Rights of parents; public educational institutions; definitions

A. A parent of a student in a public educational institution has the right to review learning materials and activities in advance. A parent who objects to any learning material or activity on the basis that the material or activity is harmful may request to withdraw that student from the activity or from the class or program in which the material is used and request an alternative assignment.

B. A charter school may require parents to waive the right to object to learning materials or activities pursuant to subsection A as a condition of enrollment if the charter school provides a complete list of books and materials to be used each school year before the student enrolls. If the charter school introduces books or materials that were not disclosed prior to enrollment, the parent retains the right to object to those materials.

4. For a pupil to receive credit for any course or as part of a letter grade for any course.
5. For a pupil to graduate from high school.
6. For a pupil to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.

F. A school district or charter school shall provide an alternative educational activity for any pupil whose parent does not consent for that pupil to participate in a survey conducted pursuant to subsection A of this section.

G. Any pupil whose parent does not give written informed consent for that pupil to participate in any survey pursuant to subsection A of this section and who attends the alternative educational activity pursuant to this section shall be counted toward daily attendance and average daily membership for the school pursuant to section 15-901 and may not be counted absent from school.

H. Responses to any survey pursuant to subsection A of this section may not be included:

1. As part of a school academic performance indicator pursuant to section 15-241, or as part of any other similar school rating system.
2. In the education learning and accountability system pursuant to section 15-249, or in any other similar system.
3. In the student accountability information system pursuant to section 15-756.10 or 15-1041, or in any other similar system.

I. A penalty may not be imposed on and a reward may not be granted to a teacher, administrator, other school employee, school district, school or charter school based on the pupil participation rate in any survey conducted pursuant to subsection A of this section.

J. On request, a charter school or school district shall provide any available information in a timely manner to the parent of a pupil regarding a survey administered pursuant to subsection A of this section including:

1. The name of the survey.
2. The date or dates on which the survey will be administered.
3. The method or methods of administering the survey.
4. The amount of time required to administer the survey.
5. The type of information collected by the survey.
6. The reasons for administering the survey.

K. A parent of a pupil that has a reasonable belief that a school district or charter school has violated this section may file a complaint with the attorney general or the county attorney for the county in which an alleged violation of this section occurred. The attorney general or the county attorney for the county in which an alleged violation of this section occurred may initiate a suit in the superior court in the county in which the school district or charter school is located for the purpose of complying with this section. After receiving written notice of an alleged failure to comply with this section, a school district or charter school that determines that a violation has occurred is not subject to a penalty or cause of action under this section if the school district or charter school cures the violation. For the purposes of this subsection, "cure" means to destroy any information gathered in violation of this section and to provide written instruction to the individual circulating the survey, t5.9 (uc)8ared(ol)2.w>.5 (r)-5.9 (e)-5.9 (l)-2 (or)4.9 (c)-2 (ausa o7c)-2 (ul)2.6

2. Require that all meetings of committees authorized for the purposes of textbook review and selection be open to the public pursuant to title 38, chapter 3, article 3.1.
3. Provide an opportunity for public comment for at least sixty days. Public comment may include written comments, oral comments and comments submitted through e-mail.
4. Make available at the school district office for review by the public, for a period of at