

Parent Bill of Rights

The Parent Bill of Rights is grounded in the Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act (S. 204), which affirms that parents have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, and health care of their children. This means parents have the primary authority to make decisions about their child's education, moral or religious training, and medical care. The bill also requires that if the government ever restricts these rights, it must show a compelling interest and use the least restrictive means possible. Parental involvement is a significant factor in increasing student achievement, and access to student information encourages greater parental involvement.

Louisiana Parents' Bill of Rights

PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

(LSA—R.S. 17:406.9)

Parents of public school children shall have all of the following rights:

- To examine textbooks, curriculum, and other materials used in your child's classroom.
- To inspect child's school records and receive a child's education records within 10 business days of the request.
- To be notified when medical services are being offered to their child, except where emergency medical treatment is required. In cases where emergency medical treatment is required, the parent shall be notified as soon as practicable after the treatment is rendered.
- To be notified if a criminal action is deemed to have been committed against their child or by their child.
- To be notified if law enforcement personnel question their child, except in cases where the parent has been accused of abusing or neglecting the child.
- To be notified if your child is taken or removed from the school campus without parental permission.
- That the school shall not discriminate against your child based on sincerely held religious beliefs of the child's family.
- To receive written notice and the option to opt their child out of any surveys that include questions about any of the following:
 - The student's sexual experiences or attractions.
 - The student's family beliefs, morality, religion, or political affiliations.
 - Any mental health or psychological problems of the student or a family member.
- To receive written notice and have the option to opt their child out of instruction on topics associated with sexual activity.

Danny Hunt, President
Board of Directors

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- To receive from the school the annual school calendar, no later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the school year, and to be notified in writing as soon as feasible of any revisions to such calendar.
- To receive in writing each year or to view on the school's website a comprehensive listing of any required fee and its purpose and use and a description of how economic hardships may be addressed.
- To receive in writing each year or to view on the school's website a description of the school's required uniform for students.
- To be informed if their child's academic performance is such that it could threaten the child's ability to be promoted to the next grade level and to be offered an in-person meeting with the child's classroom teacher and school leader to discuss any resources or strategies available to support and encourage the child's academic improvement.
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, a public school shall not be required to release any records or information regarding a student's medical or health records or mental health counseling records to a parent during the pendency of an investigation of child abuse or neglect conducted by any law enforcement agency or the Department of Children and Family Services where the parent is the target of the investigation, unless the parent has obtained a court order.

For more information, please see: Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:406.9

Teacher Bill of Rights

Louisiana law RS 17:416.18 states that teachers are entitled to a set of rights that support their professionalism and authority in the classroom. These include legal protections such as qualified immunity and indemnification when acting in their official capacity, the ability to discipline or remove disruptive students, and having their professional judgment respected in disciplinary decisions. Teachers also deserve a safe, orderly working environment, respect and civility from others, and time during the school day for collaborating with colleagues.

Louisiana Teachers' Bill of Rights

TEACHER BILL OF RIGHTS

(LSA—R.S. 17:416.18)

Respecting the authority of teachers is essential to creating an environment conducive to learning, effective instruction in the classroom, and proper administration of city, parish and other local public schools. To maintain and protect that authority, it is important that teachers, administrators, parents and students are fully informed of the various right conferred upon teachers. Those rights, the Teacher Bill of Rights, are established as follows:

- A teacher has the right to teach free from fear of frivolous lawsuits, including the right to qualified immunity and to a legal defense, and to indemnification by the employing school board, pursuant to R.S. 17:416.1(C), 416.4, 416.5 and 416.11, for actions taken in the performance of duties of the teacher's employment.
- A teacher has the right to appropriately discipline students in accordance with R.S. 17:223 and through 416.6 and any city, parish, or other local public school board regulation.
- A teacher has the right to remove any persistently disruptive student from his classroom when the student's behavior presents the orderly instruction of other students or when the student displays impudent or defiant behavior and to place the student in the custody of the principal or his designee pursuant to R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(c).
- A teacher has the right to have his or her professional judgment and discretion respected by school and district administrators in any disciplinary action taken by the teacher in accordance with school and district policy and with R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(c).

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- A teacher has the right to teach in a safe, secure, and orderly environment that is conducive to learning and free from recognized dangers or hazards that are causing or likely to cause serious injury in accordance with R.S. 17:416.9 and 416.6.
- A teacher has the right to be treated with civility and respect as provided in R.S. 17:416.12.
- A teacher has the right to communicate with and to request the participation of parents in appropriate student disciplinary decisions pursuant to R.S. 17:235.1 and 416(A).
- A teacher has the right to be free from excessively burdensome disciplinary paperwork.
- A beginning teacher has the right to receive leadership and support in accordance with R.S. 17:3881, including the assignment of a qualified, experienced mentor who commits to helping him become a competent, confident professional in the classroom and offers support and assistance as needed to meet performance standards and professional expectations.

**No city, parish or other local public school board shall establish policies that prevent teachers from exercising the rights provided herein. The provisions of the Teacher Bill of Rights shall not be construed to supersede any other state law, BESE Policy, or city, parish or other local public school board policy enacted or adopted relative to the discipline of students.*

For more information, please see: Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:416.18