

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER: PARENTS/TAXPAYERS EDUCATION BILL OF RIGHTS

BACKGROUND. The culture wars continue unabated in the U.S. and Nebraska. Radical leftists, teacher unions, and perversion promotion organizations continue their assault against taxpayers and traditional values families by trying to pump leftist and perverted curriculum into our public schools. Various school districts refuse to allow parents and other taxpayers to scrutinize library and classroom materials. This radical attitude assumes that the school systems, not the parents or taxpayers, should control the education and moral upbringing of our children and teens. NE Taxpayers believes that the only recourse now is to pass a parental rights bill in the 2023 Legislature, so that parents can preserve and protect the right to act as the primary educators and nurturers of our children, and so that taxpayers have the right to analyze expenditure of our federal, state, and local tax dollars. The grassroots parental rights movement is gaining momentum and strength, and state senators nationwide are taking action against schools that prioritize indoctrination and teacher unions over parents and children. Times are desperate, and our cause is just. Parents and taxpayers must no longer suffer radical gender theories and Critical Race Theory propagandizing and subverting our kids.

KANSAS LEGISLATURE. Conservative political leaders here transformed grassroots energy into legislation and policy changes. Overriding a Democrat gubernatorial veto, the Kansas Legislature passed a Parents Bill of Rights, [Senate Bill 496](#), to allow parents and taxpayers to inspect materials, curriculum, lesson plans, tests, questionnaires, surveys, books, and training manuals used in public schools. Parents can contest use of library books and enjoy rights to speak at school board meetings. The legislature took such action, because too many schools were not offering the public access to school information for which taxpayer dollars pay.¹ One senator declared that local school boards had improperly limited speech rights of disgruntled parents, including Salina residents outraged by library books containing profanity, vulgarity, and other material inappropriate even in an adult setting. Local and state officials had brushed aside criticism and suggestions from parents. The senator said the bill also would guarantee parents the right to see their child's educational and medical files in possession of school districts. Audits by legislative staff have revealed Kansas school districts with extremely weak computer security systems to guard that private information.²

GEORGIA LAW. Georgia state senators passed a bill to codify parental rights in K-12 schools, a bill long backed by GOP Gov. Brian Kemp. Parents were livid about schools teaching CRT and gender orientation. Parents now have the right to view all classroom materials, have access to all records pertaining to their children, and the right to opt out kids from sex education. The law requires local school boards to develop procedures for parents to object to material used in the classroom. School systems have 3 days to respond to requests, although schools can extend that period by up to 30 days. Parents guaranteed a speaking slot before their local school board to appeal a denial and can further appeal to the State Board of Education.³ One of the stated purposes of the bill is to require schools and school boards to adopt policies or regulations that promote parental involvement. Under the bill, schools must notify parents of their intent to teach sex education curriculum.⁴ The bill prevents creation of photos, videos, and voice recordings of their children, except for security purposes. This bill was the product of a months-long information gathering campaign which included the input of superintendents, teachers, parents, and other education stakeholders. At its core, it stresses transparency, access, and promoting an engaged partnership between parents and educators to the ultimate benefit of the student.⁵

IOWA LAW. In this state, parents and taxpayers can examine instructional materials used in classes, assemblies, or school activities. They have a right to view texts, books, articles, handouts, presentations, and videos used in classrooms. Parents have access to all school records of their children.

¹ Jarrett Stepman, Education Commentary. [Movement for Restoring Parental Rights in Public Schools Represents the Majority](#), March 22, 2022.

² Tim Carpenter, [Democrats Fail to Derail Senate GOP's Education Bill of Rights for K-12 Schools](#), March 22, 2022.

³ Jeff Amy, AP News. [Georgia GOP Pushes Parental Rights Measure for Public Schools](#), Feb. 22, 2022.

⁴ Richard Moorhead, Western Journal. [Georgia 'Parents' Bill of Rights' Introduces Transparency to Public School Curriculum](#), July 8, 2022.

⁵ C. Mitchell Shaw. The New American. [Parents' Rights Get a Boost in Georgia](#), April 5, 2022.

MINNESOTA BILLS. A set of 5 bills enhanced parental notification requirements for public schools regarding student activities and classroom teaching, plus requirements for schools to inform parents of their rights to review curriculum and instructional materials.⁶ If a parent objects to content, reasonable arrangements made with school personnel for



alternative instruction. **Statute 120B.11** requires school districts to provide for regular public scrutiny of the curriculum review process. Parents can review curriculum immediately upon request and free of charge. Added language also requires school districts to notify parents of the curriculum review policy at the beginning of each school year. If a school wants to distribute or administer a survey created by an outside entity, a parent has the right to review the survey first, along with all supplemental materials that accompany the survey, and opt out a child. Significantly, this law applies to all gender and race-related materials.⁷

NEW HAMPSHIRE BILL. **House Bill 1431** would establish a number of parental rights in statute, including the right to direct a child's education, the right to access all school records relating to their child, and the right to prompt notification, if a school employee suspects a crime committed against a child. The bill would require school districts to adopt policies to inform parents of already existing rights in statute, such as the right to object to classroom instructional materials and finding an alternative arrangement, the right to exempt their child from immunizations because of religious beliefs or a physician exemption, and the right to review report cards and graduation requirements. It would mandate that schools provide a plan to allow parents to review the curriculum and supplemental educational materials, to examine extracurricular activities, and to participate directly in homework, school attendance, and disciplinary matters. It would create an automatic Class B misdemeanor for teachers, staff, and state officials who violate this law.⁸

MONTANA BILL. "Parental rights" has become a rallying cry in communities across Montana over the past few years, fusing family personal, social, and religious beliefs and political agendas into a concentrated body of activism. Members of the movement have crowded school board meetings, courthouse lawns, and the steps of the State Capitol to call for the removal or prohibition of specific lessons and images from classrooms. The state legislature passed **Senate Bill 400**, which prohibits government entities from interfering with the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their children and establishes that right as grounds for parents to seek legal remedies. Parental rights advocates hailed **SB 400** as a significant political victory.⁹

WISCONSIN LAW. In this state, parents can review educational materials and gain access to all learning materials. Parents can determine the names and pronouns used for their children at school. They can opt out their children and gain prior notification about educational topics and student surveys. Federal law protects students from being required to participate in a survey, analysis, or evaluation that divulges information concerning political affiliations or beliefs of a student or student parent, legally recognized privileged relationships, such as that between a physician and a patient, and religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of a student or student parent. Wisconsin legislation requires a school to notify parents about security updates, disciplinary actions taken against their child, and if crimes or acts of violence occur on a school campus. This legislation creates a legal standard for state infringement on fundamental rights of parents and guardians through specific items enumerated in the bill. It also gives parents and guardians a way to hold a district accountable for its actions by suing a district that fails to comply with this bill. Said one mom, "As a mom of three children, I urged Governor Evers to sign the Parent Bill of Rights legislation. Regrettably, parents put our faith in the school system we trusted only to feel the sting of betrayal. The fact that we even need to have a parental rights bill is a sad reality. But this legislation is absolutely necessary."

MICHIGAN LAW. Its law specifies that parents and legal guardians may review curriculum, textbooks, and teaching materials of the school in which the pupil enrolled at a reasonable time and place. Parents and legal guardians permitted, within reason, to observe instructional activity in a class or course in which a pupil enrolled and present. A school board must adopt policies and guidelines concerning these permitted activities and must make them available to the public.

VIRGINIA BILL. Every parent, guardian, or anyone else having control or charge of a child in a public school has the right to review the complete family life curricula, including all supplemental materials used in this education program. A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual materials

⁶ Jeremiah Poff, Washington Examiner. [Minnesota Republicans Introduce School Transparency Bills](#), Feb. 15, 2022.

⁷ Catrin Wigfall, [Resource Reminds Parents of their Right to Review Curriculum](#), March 29, 2022.

⁸ Ethan DeWitt, New Hampshire Bulletin. [Parental Bill of Rights Draws Opposition from Teacher's Union...](#), Apr. 5, 2022.

⁹ Alex Sakariassen, [What the parental rights movement wants](#), March 4, 2022.

available for review to a parent or guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. Audio-visual materials made available to parents for in-person review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials made available. Each school board must develop and distribute to the parents or guardians of a student participating in the family life education program and post for public viewing on the local school official website a summary designed to assist parents in understanding the program implemented in its school as the program progresses and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the instruction of students. Such information must reflect the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom. Public schools must include the following information on the summary: "Parents and guardians have the right to review the family life education program offered by their school, including written and audio-visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have the right to excuse their child from all or part of family life education instruction."

DESERVING PARENTS/TAXPAYERS. Sometimes, school officials make it difficult for parents to find out about curriculum being taught. There are no "truth-in-advertising" laws requiring schools to inform parents when they are using a curriculum heavily politicized or that promotes transgender ideology. Books and multimedia do not come labeled with their ingredients like a box of cereal. When parents do learn about curriculum, many shocked and horrified.¹⁰ Many show surprise to discover that they cannot simply go online and find out about content taught in their child's school. Across the nation, parents have started asking schools to provide the curriculum being taught to their children for their review. Some parents told to submit a public records request. Others simply denied the information that they have a right to see by law, resulting in lawsuits. Public school curriculum materials, including course syllabi, textbooks, and other instructional materials actually considered public records under Public Records Laws. Parents deserve the right to know what teachers teach their kids. Parents irate after learning that public schools were forcing 3rd Graders to question their sexual identities, showing kindergartners dramatizations of dead black children, warning them about racist police, and telling white teachers they were guilty of murdering minorities spiritually in their classrooms. Parents understood that public school bureaucrats were hiding controversial materials and exerting undue influence over their kids with fashionable leftist ideologies. Frustrated parents pushed back at school board



meetings, causing resentment among a percentage of board members. To exercise traditional parental rights, parents need accurate information about the learning materials and activities their kids are encountering in public schools. According to the Education Liberty Alliance, 11 states now have state laws for parental review of curriculum materials. Funding public schools in our democratic system demands information and engagement. Public schools must open their books and let taxpayers see what is inside.¹¹ School districts must always recognize this right and make every effort to support parents in the choices they make while raising children. Unfortunate that we must codify these rights which already exist in the U.S. Constitution but totally ignored. Parents have the right to direct the spiritual, emotional, mental, and educational upbringing of their children. Republican-led efforts in Congress over the past decade to enforce those rights in the Constitution have repeatedly failed to gain traction but have resurfaced in response to the latest wave of national debate.

OPPONENTS. The ACLU, naturally, called parental rights legislation attempts to chill teachers and students from learning about and discussing race and gender in schools. Two national teacher unions, the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers, oppose this transparency, arguing that bills would create chaos for schools and encourage lawsuits. Here in NE, the teacher's union and its allied stooge groups oppose educational parental rights.



SENATE BILL. Conservative Sen. Josh Hawley (MO) introduced the Parents Bill of Rights Act, [S. 3218](#), to require public schools to allow parents to view school books and learn the identity of guest speakers there. Parents could opt out their kids from field trips, assemblies, and extracurricular activities. Schools and school districts prohibited from requiring non-disclosure agreements or similar forms for parental review of curricula and must allow parents to make copies of curriculum documents. Parents could view their students' records. The bill would require schools to promptly notify parents of all reported incidents pertaining to student safety, including all crimes or misdemeanors committed by teachers or other school employees. The right to information about the collection and transmission of their minor child's data. Schools and school districts must obtain parental consent prior to collecting biometric data or other sensitive personal information on a minor child. The right to information on individuals and organizations receiving school contracts and

¹⁰ Emilie Kao, [Alliance Defending Freedom](#), Oct. 11, 2021.

¹¹ Christopher Rufo, [Parents Have a Right to Know What's Being Taught to their Children](#), Dec. 1, 2021.

funding. The bill also requires the U.S. Dept. of Education to withhold federal education funds from a state for noncompliance with this bill, and parents could sue to obtain injunctive relief. “Education has taken a back seat to radical politics in many schools and parents are taking notice,” Hawley said, citing CRT and a push from a national school boards group for the Biden Regime to intervene and protect educators from alleged parental threats and violence. The bill currently is in the Senate Health, Education, & Labor Comm., awaiting a vote to advance to the full Senate.

FLORIDA BILL. The Florida Parent Bill of Rights forbids government entities or private institutions from infringing on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of a minor child



without justifiable cause. Parents have the right to information about child education programs. Parents can withdraw a child from parts of a school curriculum. Schools must promote parental involvement by providing families access to classwork and instructional materials. Schools must provide reasonable methods of access. Copies of materials available for review at schools or, if limited in supply or costly, arrangements for parents to review materials at specific times at school. Parental requests for access not necessary in writing, but requirements for them to sign in during school hours and make an appointment if wishing to discuss specific items with a teacher or principal.

PREVIOUS NE ATTEMPT. Conservative State Sen. Rita Sanders (Bellevue) in the 2022 legislative session introduced **LB 1158**, a means for parents and guardians to access educational digital and learning materials for review and approval. All learning materials available for public inspection upon request. Parents could excuse their children from learning activities and guest speakers that parents believed objectionable. The bill would have required a reasonable opportunity for comment at public hearings on school policy. Each school district mandated to make all district and school policies accessible online. If the state education commissioner determined that a district failed to comply with bill requirements, he would order the withholding of all state and county aid to such district. Doug Kagan testified in support of **LB1158** on behalf of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom. He said several Nebraska school districts do not publicize the process by which they select and order staff training and learning materials or make such materials easily available for public inspection and comment before purchased. “We view **LB1158** as a solution by requiring every school district to uphold the same standards for public examination of policy and material content,” Kagan said, “We believe it would cultivate a solid working relationship between parents, taxpayers, and public school districts.” Unfortunately, this bill died before the full legislature could vote on it.

SUGGESTED PARENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS LAW. Object statement: *The right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their children is a fundamental right. School districts may not interfere with parental rights unless demonstrating a compelling interest of the highest order narrowly defined to meet that interest.*

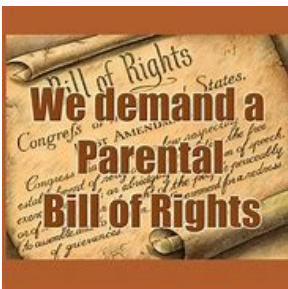
This statement allows for protection of children from abusive situations while still ensuring that parental rights not infringed upon by public school officials who believe they know better than a parent. Parents would have the following enumerated rights:

- Direct the education of their child.
- Direct the moral and religious training of their child. To excuse a student from school attendance for religious purposes.
- Make health care decisions for their child.
- Access and review of all medical records of their child at school.
- Provide written permission before a record of their child’s blood or DNA created, stored, or shared.
- Provide written permission before a mental health screening performed on a child in a non-clinical setting.
- Opting out a child from immunizations because of personal beliefs.
- Provision of written permission before a biometric scan performed on a child.
- Provision of written permission before videos or voice recordings made of a child, with specific exceptions (for example, security or surveillance of school property).
- Prompt notification if there is suspicion that a criminal offense committed against their child.

- Upon written request, parents may access instructional materials currently used by or considered for use by a school district, also review courses of study. The district must make available at least 1 copy of the instructional material reviewed. Parents may take printed textbooks, supplemental books, or subject matter materials from the district premises for no more than 48 hours. All other materials, including audio-visual items, only reviewed on district premises.
- Opting out of learning material or activity that a parent finds harmful to a student, including material that questions beliefs or practices related to sex, morality, or religion.
- Notification in advance if content discussing sexuality taught in other classes, such as history or literature, and the right to opt out a child from that instruction.
- Gain information about the nature and purpose of extracurricular student clubs and activities.

It is unfortunate that we must enforce these rights which already exist in the U.S. Constitution but totally ignored by various school districts.

TAKE ACTION NOW. Most of our property tax dollars and much of our state tax revenue supports NE public schools. Our tax dollars pay for teacher and staff salaries and benefits, books and other instructional materials, extracurricular activities, and school infrastructure. Taxpayers must demand stricter use of our tax dollars. NE parents have the right and obligation to serve as the primary protectors, providers, and educators of their children. Public education here has overstepped the bounds of its institutional authority, usurping the parental prerogative to shape their children's values by substituting non-traditional and objectionable values and content. Parental rights advocates must fight to regain their authority. Using the information above, lobby your state senator to introduce and pass a Parental Education Rights Bill in the 2023 legislative session. Lobby our 2 senators to co-sponsor and support **S. 3218**. For state senator and Senate contact information, email netaxpayers@gmail.com and join our NTF *Education Watch Project*.



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