

Procedure Companion to Calhoun County School Board Policy 9.11

House Bill 1557, Parental Rights in Education

In accordance with the rights of parents, Calhoun County School District reinforces the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children. The district and each school principal are encouraged to strengthen family involvement and family empowerment in the school.

Parent Notification

1. The district will reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children by including these procedures in the Employment Handbook. Employees will acknowledge their receipt of the procedure.
2. The district will notify a student's parent 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.
 - a. School district personnel will encourage a student to discuss issues relating to his or her well-being with his or her parent or to facilitate discussion of the issue with the parent.
 - b. The school district will not adopt procedures or student support forms that prohibit school district personnel from notifying a parent about his or her student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or a change in related services or monitoring
 - c. School district personnel may not encourage or have the effect of encouraging a student to withhold such information from a parent.
 - d. School district personnel may not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.
3. The district may not prohibit parents from accessing any of their student's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the school district, as required by s. 1002.2(2), F.S.
4. School district personnel are encouraged to document parent contacts.
5. School district personnel may withhold such information from a parent if a reasonable prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect, as those terms are defined in s. 39.01, F.S. When information is withheld, school district personnel should discuss the information and circumstances to their principal.
6. At the beginning of the school year, the district will notify parents of each health care service offered at their student's school and the option to withhold consent or decline any specific service.
 - a. Parental consent to a health care service does not waive a parent's right to access his or her student's educational or health records or to be notified about a change in his or her student's services or monitoring.
 - b. Before administering a student well-being questionnaire or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through grade 3, a school district must provide the parent the questionnaire or health screening form and obtain permission of the parent.

7. Parents will be notified at the beginning of each school year of their right to notify the principal, or his or her designee, regarding specific concerns at his or her student's school about practices and procedures under s. 1001.42(8)(c), F.S. and the process for resolving those concerns within a specified time limit.

Classroom Instruction

Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties shall not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in prekindergarten through grade 3 on sexual orientation or gender identity. (11/22/22 Amendment)

Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties shall not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 4 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is either expressly required by state academic standards as adopted in Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., or is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have his or her student not attend. (5/23/23 Amendment)

Parents Notification of the School and District

1. Parents may notify the principal, or his or her designee, regarding specific concerns at his or her student's school about practices and procedures.
 - a. Parents may telephone or email to schedule a school conference
 - b. Parents are encouraged to contact the school in a way so as not to disrupt the normal operations of the school.
2. After notification by the parent, the principal or his or her designee, will investigate the concern. The principal has seven (7) calendar days to resolve the concern. The principal or his or her designee will contact or schedule a school conference with the parent by the end of the seven days.
3. Parent should contact the District Superintendent or his or her designee if concerns remain unresolved. After an investigation, a resolution will be made within (calendar) 30 days.
4. If a concern is not resolved by the school district, a parent may contact the Commissioner of Education to request the appointment of a special magistrate. The special magistrate will render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request by the parent.