



New York City Department of Education

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Bill of Parent Rights and Responsibilities

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The New York City Department of Education recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children. Each child's maximum potential can best be achieved through a strong home and school partnership. Parents, legally appointed guardians, and those in parental relationship to students, as partners in education, have certain rights and responsibilities.

ALL PARENTS HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

THE RIGHT TO A FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

A free public school education is a basic right guaranteed to all children.

Parents have the right to:

1. have their child, regardless of place of birth, receive a free public school education from kindergarten until age 21, or receipt of a high school diploma, whichever comes first, as provided by law.
2. have a child with a disability evaluated and, if found to be in need of special education, receive a free, appropriate education from age 3 through age 21, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
3. have a child who is an English Language Learner provided with educational services as required by law and regulations.
4. have their child receive his or her full instructional schedule in accordance with the school calendar adopted annually by the Department of Education and related Chancellor's Regulations.
5. have their child receive educational services in a safe and supportive learning environment, free of discrimination, harassment and bigotry.
6. have their child accorded all the rights set forth in the Department of Education's *Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities*.

THE RIGHT TO BE GIVEN ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Department of Education and its schools have the responsibility to provide parents with access to available information on educational programs and opportunities and to their child's education records.

Parents have the right to:

1. be given access to current information regarding services which are provided by the school system, eligibility requirements for these services, and how to apply for them (i.e., transportation, food services, health services, English Language Learner (ELL) instruction, remediation, special education services, etc.).
2. be provided with information concerning expectations for their children with respect to the educational program, attendance and behavior.
3. be provided with information regarding the grading criteria that will be used to evaluate their child's academic performance.
4. be given access to information concerning their child's instructional program.

5. be assured of the confidentiality of their child's records, in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-820.
6. inspect and review their child's education records, to have them explained by designated school staff if requested, to obtain copies of these records, to request that records be released to an outside agency, in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-820, and to withhold their contact information from institutions of higher learning and military recruiters.
7. be provided with information regarding all policies and regulations which require parent consultation at the school, district and/or regional level.
8. be provided with translation and interpretation services if the parent requires or requests language assistance in order to communicate effectively with the Department, in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-663.

THE RIGHT TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN

Parents have the right to be given every available opportunity for meaningful participation in their child's education.

Parents have the right to:

1. be treated with courtesy and respect by all school personnel, and to be accorded all rights without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, ethnicity, alienage, citizenship status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or economic status.
2. participate in communication with teachers and other school staff and share concerns regarding their child's academic, social and behavioral progress.
3. visit their child's school to meet with his or her teacher and principal at mutually agreeable times.
4. participate in meaningful parent-teacher conferences to discuss their child's progress in school.
5. be informed of their child's academic and behavioral progress in school.
6. be encouraged to participate and receive assistance in participating effectively in governance and educational decision-making through the School Leadership Team at their child's school.
7. be accompanied by a friend, advisor, or interpreter at hearings, conferences, interviews and other meetings concerning their child, in accordance with established procedures.
8. be provided, if they are hearing impaired, with an interpreter at any meeting or activity which they attend which is specific to the academic and or disciplinary aspects of their child's educational program, provided a written request is made prior to the meeting or activity; if an interpreter is unavailable, other reasonable accommodations shall be made.
9. have school staff make every reasonable attempt to ensure that parents receive important notices from the school, such as notices concerning parent-teacher conferences, open school week, parent association notices, etc.

10. be a member of the parent or parent-teacher association of his or her child's school without regard to the payment of dues.
11. be provided with a copy of the "Bill of Parent Rights and Responsibilities," the "Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities," and the Discipline Code upon registering their child for school and, thereafter, upon request.
12. participate on school committees, in accordance with the guidelines which apply to those committees.
13. be represented on parent advisory committees established by the Chancellor and the Department of Education.
14. be a candidate for or, if in the position of President, Secretary, or Treasurer of the Parent Association or Parent-Teacher Association of their child's school, vote for members of the Community or Citywide Education Councils, if applicable, in accordance with the law.
15. attend all meetings of the Community Education Councils and of the Panel for Educational Policy which are open to the public, in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Law (" the Sunshine Law").
16. speak at public meetings of the Community Education Councils and of the Panel for Educational Policy, in accordance with established procedures.

THE RIGHT TO FILE COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Parents have the right to follow appropriate procedures to pursue complaints or appeal decisions affecting their child.

Parents have the right to:

1. appeal any entry in their child's records on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their child's privacy rights and request that such records be amended, in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-820.
2. follow applicable procedures for filing complaints or appealing decisions which they believe violate their own or their child's rights.

ALL PARENTS HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. send their child to school ready to learn.
2. ensure that their child attends school regularly and arrives on time.
3. be aware of their child's work, progress, and problems by talking to their child about school, looking at their child's work and progress reports, and meeting with school staff.
4. maintain contact with their child's teachers and principal about the progress of their child's education.
5. respond to communications from their child's school.
6. attend all meetings and conferences requested by the school that pertain to their child.

7. treat all school staff members with courtesy and respect.

PARENTS SHOULD ALSO:

1. provide a supportive home setting for learning where their child learns that doing his/her best in school is important.
2. reinforce at home the importance of acquiring the knowledge, skills and values needed to function effectively in society.
3. volunteer time, skills or resources when needed and where possible.
4. take part in school and community programs that empower parents to participate in making educational decisions.
5. become active members of the school's Parent Association or Parent-Teacher Association.
6. hold their child responsible for the work, attendance, and behavior which is expected by the school, and to teach respect for the person, property, safety, and rights of others.