LIBERTY JUSTICE CENTER



6 EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

Because your children belong to you, not the government.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Parents have the right to direct their children's education and upbringing. The Supreme Court has recognized that fundamental right, and various laws protect it.

Access to School Records

1 Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), schools must allow you to review your child's educational records and request amendments to them. This ensures transparency and allows you to stay informed about your child's academic progress and any other issues that may arise.

Truthful Communication from School Staff

2 You have the right to be told the truth by school staff about your child. This includes honest communication regarding your child's behavior, academic performance, and any incidents that occur at school. Trust and transparency between parents and school staff are essential for fostering a supportive educational environment.

Information Impacting Your Child's Well-being

3 Parents have the right to receive information from their child's school that directly impacts the child's physical, mental, emotional, or social well-being. Schools must inform you about any significant changes or concerns that may affect your child's overall health and safety.

Access and Free Speech at School Board Meetings and on Social Media

4 When your school board holds meetings with public comment periods, or opens a forum for comments on social media, you have a First Amendment right to voice your concerns, provide input on school policies, and advocate for your child's education. Parents should familiarize themselves with their state's open meeting and public records laws to develop a better understanding of their board's transparency obligations. For example, California's Brown Act empowers members of the public add topics to their board's agenda.

Reporting Misuse of School Resources

5 Most states have laws prohibiting school districts from spending school resources on political activities. Parents have the right to report those misuses of school resources. If you believe that school funds or resources are being mismanaged or used inappropriately, you can raise these concerns with the appropriate authorities, which may be an ethics board, a county district attorney, or the state's attorney general.

Due Process for Student Discipline

6 The Supreme Court has recognized that students facing suspensions have a right to due process. While the scope of that right may turn on the severity of the discipline, students are at minimum entitled to notice of the charges, and explanation of the evidence against them and the opportunity to present their side of the story. State law and school board policies may further clarify parents' rights to insist on hearings and appeals beyond the floor set by federal law.

THE LIBERTY JUSTICE CENTER DEFENDS THESE RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY:

- In **CALIFORNIA**, LJC is leading the fight against policies that require school districts to keep secrets about students' development.
- In **TEXAS**, LJC led the fight to stop school districts from illegally using taxpayer resources to oppose school choice, resulting in the first ever criminal indictment of school administrators for electioneering.
- In **OREGON**, LJC represents a mother and educator who was censored and banned from her local school board for criticizing the district.
- In **NEW YORK**, LJC successfully represented a parent whose school board was violating the state's open meetings laws, resulting in increased transparency.
- In **NORTH CAROLINA**, LJC represents a student suspended for three days because the school determined that the term "illegal aliens" was a racial slur.



ABOUT US

The Liberty Justice Center is a non-profit legal organization that helps protect the economic liberty, private property, free speech, educational freedom, and other fundamental rights of regular Americans. Our attorneys have fought and won in courts across the country—including the U.S. Supreme Court—and we can do the same for you.

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