

SENATE BILL NO. 451

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR TRENT.

1715S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to transparency in elementary and secondary education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 161.843, to read as
3 follows:

161.843. 1. This section shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Parents' Bill of Rights".

3 2. As used in this section, the term "parent" means a
4 child's biological or adoptive parent, guardian, or other
5 person having control or custody of the child.

6 3. Parents of a child attending the public schools of
7 this state have the right to participate in and direct the
8 education of their child and to know what is being taught in
9 their child's school.

10 4. This section shall be construed to protect and
11 promote the rights of parents to participate in and direct
12 the education of their child who attends a public school.
13 Such parents' rights shall include, but are not limited to,
14 the following:

15 (1) The right to be notified, if any school employee
16 or official suspects that a criminal offense has been
17 committed against the parents' child, in a timely manner of
18 all reported incidents pertaining to student safety

19 including, but not limited to, any felony or misdemeanor
20 committed by a teacher or other school employee, subject to
21 the following:

22 (a) No employee of any public school or school
23 district shall encourage, coerce, or attempt to coerce a
24 minor child to withhold information from such minor child's
25 parents, except that any such person required to report
26 suspected abuse or neglect under sections 210.109 to 210.183
27 may encourage a minor child to withhold information if
28 disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in abuse
29 or neglect;

30 (b) No employee who is a person required to report
31 suspected abuse or neglect under sections 210.109 to 210.183
32 shall be required to notify the parents of such suspected
33 abuse or neglect of the parent's child if the parent is the
34 alleged perpetrator;

35 (2) The right to be involved in their child's
36 education and to be notified of these rights and of any
37 information that affects the well-being of their child;

38 (3) The right to access and view school curricula,
39 guest lecturer materials, and staff training manuals in a
40 timely manner and in an easily accessible format;

41 (4) The right to access school district and school
42 building performance information in a timely manner and in
43 an easily understood and fully accessible format;

44 (5) The right to transparent access to school and
45 school district financial information in an easily
46 understood and fully accessible format;

47 (6) The right to choose existing educational choice
48 options provided by law that best suit the learning needs of
49 their child, but which shall not be construed to include
50 educational choice options for any school district or local

51 educational agency that is not specifically authorized by
52 statute for such student, school district, or local
53 educational agency including, but not limited to, the right
54 of parents to choose which public school, school district,
55 or local educational agency is best for the parents' child
56 under a system for open enrollment across district
57 boundaries that shall be created and funded by the general
58 assembly;

59 (7) The right to opt their child out of the classroom
60 for any presentation of content listed in the syllabus with
61 which the parents disagree, if the parent of such child
62 provides for an alternative location and safe and secure
63 supervision during the time that such contested content is
64 being presented;

65 (8) The right to control their child's likeness in
66 district materials, subject to exceptions such as court
67 orders; and

68 (9) The right to control their child's health and
69 identifying markers including, but not limited to, the right
70 to opt out of health measures not required by state order or
71 statute.

72 5. The public schools of this state shall take all
73 actions necessary to promote, preserve, and protect the
74 rights described in this section including, but not limited
75 to, the following actions:

76 (1) Making available to the public all curricula such
77 as the title of each textbook, course outlines, and reading
78 lists at least thirty days before the beginning of a
79 semester in which the material will be taught;

80 (2) Making available to the public school building
81 level and district academic performance information
82 including, but not limited to:

83 (a) Any financial and academic data submitted to the
84 department of elementary and secondary education;

85 (b) The percentage of all students scoring at the
86 proficient level or higher on all assessments administered
87 under the Missouri assessment program or any subsequent
88 equivalent assessment adopted;

89 (c) The percentage of students in each reportable
90 subgroup including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity,
91 economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and
92 English language learners scoring at the proficient level or
93 higher on all assessments administered under the Missouri
94 assessment program or any subsequent equivalent assessment
95 adopted; and

96 (d) For grades three to eight, the growth score in
97 English language arts and in math measured against the
98 national normal curve equivalent or any subsequent
99 equivalent measurement adopted; and

100 (3) Making available to the public all financial data
101 available in a searchable and easily understood format
102 including, but not limited to:

103 (a) Financial reports and audits including, but not
104 limited to, any reports submitted to the state;

105 (b) Payment data showing all payments made by the
106 school or school district; and

107 (c) Information about the tax rates and revenues
108 associated with the school or school district.

109 6. (1) No school or school employee shall compel a
110 teacher or student to adopt, affirm, adhere to, or profess
111 ideas in violation of Title IV or Title VI of the federal
112 Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, including, but not
113 limited to, the following:

114 (a) That individuals of any race, ethnicity, color, or
115 national origin are inherently superior or inferior;

116 (b) That individuals should be adversely or
117 advantageously treated on the basis of individual race,
118 ethnicity, color, or national origin; and

119 (c) That individuals, by virtue of their race,
120 ethnicity, color, or national origin, bear collective guilt
121 and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the
122 past by other members of the same race, ethnicity, color, or
123 national origin.

124 (2) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit
125 teachers or students from discussing public policy issues or
126 ideas that individuals may find unwelcome, disagreeable, or
127 offensive.

128 (3) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit
129 a school employee from discussing the ideas and history of
130 the ideas listed in this subsection.

131 7. Any material required to be available to parents
132 under this section shall be made available in a searchable
133 electronic format at all times. Such material shall be
134 placed on the department of elementary and secondary
135 education website or on such electronic platform as may be
136 provided by the department.

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