



Senate Bill 49 Summary

Full text of Senate Bill 49 can be found by clicking on the most recent version [here](#).

Note: "State" is defined as the State, any of its political subdivisions, or any public school unit.

A parent's rights include:

- "Directing the education and care of his or her child;"
- "Directing the upbringing and moral or religious training of his or her child;"
- Enrolling a child in an eligible public or nonpublic school to meet compulsory attendance requirements;
- Accessing all student education data, as provided in FERPA;
- Making health care decisions for his or her child (with some exceptions);
- Accessing all student health data, as provided in HIPAA;
- Preventing the creation and storage of a biometric scan, DNA, and/or blood of his or her child;
- Preventing the State's creation of a video or voice recording of his or her child (with some exceptions); and
- Receiving prompt notification of any criminal offense committed against his or her child.

Any employee of the State who "encourages, coerces, or attempts to encourage or coerce" a child to withhold information from his or her parent may be subject to disciplinary action.

Parental involvement is important to the education of all students. As such, all public school units and personnel should implement a well-developed family engagement program.

Public school units must notify parents of their rights around their child's education. These rights include:

- Consent (or not) to their child's participation in reproductive health and safety education programs (already required in General Statutes);
- Seek a medical or religious exemption from immunization requirements (already required in General Statutes);
- View statewide assessment results in the State report card;
- Request that their child be evaluated for participation in an AIG program and/or Exceptional Children services (already required in General Statutes);
- Review and purchase textbooks and other instructional materials (already required in General Statutes);
- Obtain information about the public school unit's promotion and retention requirements, including those for graduation;
- Receive regular report cards that include information on the student's academic performance for each class or course, conduct, and attendance;
- Review information on state-level education requirements, including those for academic standards, report cards, attendance, and textbooks;
- Engage in parent-teacher organizations;



- Opt out of certain data collection efforts (already required in General Statutes);
- Provide consent in order for students to participate in surveys that collect protected information (already required in General Statutes);
- Review data on materials that their child has borrowed from the school library.

Public school units must make the above rights available to parents electronically or by displaying them on the unit's website.

The State Board of Education must develop minimum requirements for a "parent's guide to student achievement" to be provided to each parent by every public school unit. The goal of the guide is to outline what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how they can support their success. The minimum requirements established by the Board must include:

- Information for parents;
 - The requirements that their student must meet to be promoted to the next grade;
 - The Standard Course of Study, textbooks, and other instructional materials that the student will use, including the school's policies for parental inspection and review of the materials;
 - The student's progress toward proficiency, including policies on student assessment and the student's assessment results, report cards, and progress reports;
 - Qualifications of the student's teachers (including licensure status); and
 - School entry requirements (including required immunizations and the recommended schedule for administering them).
- Information on parental action that can support the student;
- Services available for parents and students;
- Ways that parents can engage with their child's school;
- Opportunities for parents to learn about rigorous academic programs, including honors and Career and College Promise;
- Educational choices available in the county in which the family resides, including nonpublic options and scholarship grant programs (Opportunity Scholarships);
- Rights of students with disabilities;
- Contact information for the school and public school unit; and
- Resources on student health, including a recommended immunization schedule.

Each public school unit must provide parents, students, and school personnel with a written, understandable parent guide that meets the minimum requirements set by the State Board of Education. The guide should be discussed at the beginning of the school year in meetings with students, parents, and teachers.

Local boards of education must adopt policies to do the following:

- Provide parents with links to community services
- Give parents opportunities to develop, implement, and evaluate family engagement programs;
- Provide parents with opportunities to participate on school advisory councils;

- Provide for parental involvement in their child's education, particularly in ways that align with the parent guide for student achievement described above;
- Require principals to communicate the use of textbooks to implement the school's curriculum to parents;
- Establish a process for parents to learn about the Standard Course of Study and the source of any supplementary instructional materials, including the process by which parents can review any textbooks and other instructional materials;
- Establish a method for parents to object to textbooks and other instructional materials;
- Establish a process for parents to review materials and consent or withhold consent for their child to participate in reproductive health and safety programs; and
- Establish a process for parents to learn about clubs and activities offered at their child's school.

Parents may, in writing, request any of the information covered by this bill. The principal has 10 business days to either provide the information or notify the parent that the information will be provided within 20 business days (allowable if a request is complex or requires a large volume of materials).

- If the principal either denies a request or fails to respond, the parent may request the same information of the superintendent.
- If the superintendent denies or fails to respond within 20 days, the parent may appeal to the local board of education.
- The local board of education must establish policies and procedures that govern the above process and timelines for parent requests for information.

Local boards of education must adopt processes for the following:

- At the beginning of the school year, notify parents of the health care services available and the process for providing consent for each specific service;
- Providing copies of any student well-being or health screening forms and a way for parents to consent to their administration to students (grades kindergarten through three only);
- Notify parents when there are any changes in services or monitoring related to a student's mental, emotional, or physical health; and
- Notify parents when there is a change made to a student's name or pronoun used in school records or by school personnel.

Processes and policies adopted for the above must include a requirement that school personnel either encourage a child to discuss issues related to their well-being with their parent or facilitate the parent-child discussion.

Student support services training must adhere to guidelines, standards, and frameworks established by the Department of Public Instruction.

Gender identity, sexual activity, and/or sexuality should not be included in any curriculum for students in grades kindergarten through four, regardless of whether the information is provided by school personnel or third parties. This requirement does not apply to responses to student-initiated questions.

Local boards of education must adopt policies for a parent to notify the principal when he or she has concerns regarding any of the processes/policies created in response to this bill. The processes should result in the resolution of concerns within seven days of the notification by the parent.

- If the parental concern is not resolved within thirty days, the public school unit must provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving the concern to the parent.
- If the concern is not resolved, the parent may:
 - Notify the State Board of Education of the concern and request a hearing or
 - Bring an action against the public school unit

A protected information survey is defined as “a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning any of the following:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
- Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.”

When administering a protected information survey, the public school unit must provide the full text of the survey and the process for providing consent to parents and adult students at least ten days prior to its administration.

- No student can participate in a protected information survey without prior consent from the parent.

By September 15 of each year, each public school unit must report the following to the State Board of Education:

- The most current versions of all policies and processes adopted as a required by the bill (with any modifications from the previous policies or procedures clearly marked);
- The number of requests for information appeals to the local board of education, with the percentage of appeals decided in favor of the parent and in favor of the school;
- The number of statements provided to parents as a result of the processes for parents to raise concerns;
- The number of parental concern hearings involving the public school unit; and
- The number of actions brought against the public school unit, along with the number of declaratory judgments resulting from parent concerns.

All requirements in the bill would go into effect for the 2023-24 school year.



No health care practitioner can provide, solicit, or arrange treatment for a minor without obtaining written consent from the parent.

No health care facility can allow treatment to be performed on a minor child without obtaining written consent from the parent.

Any person who violates the above requirements related to treatment for minor children is subject to disciplinary action by their licensing/certifying board, including a fine of up to \$5,000.