

Whitehall City Schools – Quick Guide to HB 8

Effective April 2025 | Board Policy IGBLA



Ohio's Parents' Bill of Rights affirms parents/guardians' fundamental right to make decisions about their child's upbringing, education, and care. Here's what it means for Whitehall City Schools.

1. Sexuality Content in Instruction

- K–3: No classroom instruction that includes sexuality content.
- Grades 4–12: Any sexuality content must be age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate.
- Parents/guardians must be given advance notice and can review materials before instruction.
- Parents/guardians have the right to opt their child out of sexuality content instruction.

Sexuality content = oral/written instruction, presentations, images, or descriptions of sexual concepts or gender ideology. Does not include topics required by law like STI prevention, child sexual abuse prevention, sexual violence prevention, or incidental references.

2. Notification of Substantial Changes in Student Health or Well-Being

- Parents/guardians will be promptly notified if there is a substantial change in their child's:
 - Services (including counseling)
 - Monitoring related to mental, emotional, or physical health
 - The school's ability to provide a safe and supportive environment
- This includes:
 - Major academic changes
 - Serious illness, injury, or psychological trauma
 - Harassment, intimidation, or bullying as defined by state law
 - Request to identify as a gender different from biological sex
 - Suicidal thoughts, persistent depression, severe anxiety, or other mental health issues

3. Parental Consent for Health Services

- Parents/guardians will get an Annual Notice of the health services we offer (physical, mental, behavioral) in the Student Handbook.
- You can decline any service.
- Consent is not required for: emergencies, first aid, unanticipated minor health needs, or IEP/504 services.

4. Parent Concern Procedure

- File a written concern with the principal or assistant principal.
- A response will be provided within 30 days.
- Parents/guardians can appeal to the Superintendent, then to the Board of Education.

Our Commitment

WCS will:

- Follow the law
- Communicate promptly and respectfully
- Keep student well-being at the center of every decision

For more information, visit our website or scan the QR code.

