



Parent/Guardian Know Your Rights

Your Child Has the Right to a Free Public Education

- All children in the United States have a Constitutional right to equal access to free public education, regardless of immigration status and regardless of the immigration status of the students' parents or guardians.

In California:

- All children have the right to a free public education.
- All children ages 6–18 must be enrolled in school.
- All students and staff have the right to attend safe, secure, and peaceful schools.
- All students have the right to a public school environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, violence, and intimidation.
- All students have equal opportunity to participate in any program or activity offered by the school and cannot be discriminated against based on race, nationality, gender, religion, or immigration status.

Information Required for School Enrollment

- When enrolling a child, schools must accept a variety of documents from the parent or guardian to prove the child's age or residency.
- You never have to provide a Social Security number to enroll your child in school.
- You never have to provide citizenship or immigration status to enroll your child in school.

Confidentiality of Personal Information

- Federal and state laws protect student education records and personal information. Schools generally must get written consent from parents or guardians before releasing student information, unless the release is for educational purposes, the information is already public, or it is in response to a court order or subpoena.
- Some schools share basic "directory information" about students. Each year, your school district must notify you in writing about its directory information policy and let you know you can refuse the release of your child's information.

Family Safety Plans for Emergencies

- You can provide emergency contact information, including secondary contacts, to identify a trusted adult who can care for your child in the event of an emergency.
- You can complete a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit or a Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian, which may give a trusted adult the authority to make educational and medical decisions for your child.
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Right to File a Complaint

- Your child has the right to report a hate crime or file a complaint with the school district if they are discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or bullied based on actual or perceived nationality, ethnicity, or immigration status.