

Ohio House Bill 8 – Parent’s Bill of Rights Review of Instructional Materials, Right to Opt-Out, and Notification of Student Services

The Northern Local School District fully complies with the Parent’s Bill of Rights and all components of House Bill 8. This notice outlines for parents and guardians certain policies and practices related to student instruction, student services, and parent notifications which are designed to affirm your right to make decisions regarding your child’s upbringing, education, and care. Ohio’s Parents’ Bill of Rights law sets a uniform statewide process for how parents are notified about certain aspects of the education program, as well as parents’ rights to be informed and make decisions. Please review the information below and feel free to reach out to your building principal with any questions or clarification.

Inspection of Instructional Materials and Right to Opt-Out

As you may know, you have the right to review your child’s instructional materials for all of their classes, including prior to instruction. You also have the right to opt-out your student from specific aspects of the educational program. We have asked our teachers to keep their course information current so that parents are informed of upcoming plans and content for their child’s classes. In addition, you may on occasion receive notifications from your child’s teacher when upcoming classroom instruction includes sexuality content or other content that could be considered controversial. If you have specific questions or concerns, you should reach out to the classroom teacher. If you request your child be excused from the material or lesson, your child will receive an alternative assignment in lieu of the opted-out material.

Age and Developmentally Appropriate Course Content

The district intends for its coursework to be age and developmentally appropriate for students. The Parents’ Bill of Rights specifies that there shall be no sexuality content in classroom instruction for grades Kindergarten through third grade. For grades four and higher, any sexuality content must be age and developmentally appropriate and follow state-approved curriculum. Exceptions exist for education on topics that are state-mandated, such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual violence prevention, and abuse prevention. As with the above, you have the right to review any instructional material that includes sexuality content prior to instruction being provided and to request that your child be excused from the instruction and given an alternative assignment.

Parent Notice of Substantial Changes in a Student’s Services or Monitoring

Parents/Guardians will be promptly notified of any substantial change in their student’s services at school, including counseling services or monitoring related to the student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or the school’s ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student. The notification will be provided by the student’s building administration through email and/or a telephone conference.

Student Health Care Services

Parents have the right to choose whether or not to give the school authorization to provide any health care services to their child, including physical, mental, and behavioral health services. These services may include, for example, nursing services, counseling services, and athletic training services, but they do not include emergency situations, first aid, other unanticipated minor health care services, or health care services provided under a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Some health care services are required by the district under state law. These include administering medicine, hearing and vision screening, screening for students newly enrolled in kindergarten and/or first grade,

concussion assessments, diabetes care, dyslexia screening, seizure action plans, threat assessment, counseling to certain victims of sexual harassment or other sexual conduct, counseling for habitually absent students, and any other individualized school health plans or services required by a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan. Other services, such as those of our school counselors, focus on developing and implementing programs that support students' academic, career, and personal development. School counselors provide individual and group counseling, guidance curriculum, and responsive services. While they do not provide long-term therapy, they offer brief interventions and can connect students with appropriate community resources (with parent consent).

Parents always have the option for their child to receive these services elsewhere, including from their primary health care provider or the county department of public health. Where parent consent is granted, the consent does not waive the parent's right to access their child's educational or health records or to be notified about a substantial change in their child's services or monitoring, as discussed above.

Process for Resolving Parent Concerns

Parents may file written concerns with the principal or other building administrator of the student's school of attendance regarding any topics addressed in the Parental Rights and Parental Involvement section of Board Policy 5780.01. The principal or other building administrator will take steps with parent(s) to resolve the concern within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written concern. If not satisfied with the outcome of the resolution by the principal or building administrator, the parent(s) may appeal a decision at that level to the Superintendent.

If a parent appeals the principal's or building administrator's decision, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will conduct a hearing on the decision. Based on the findings of that hearing, the Superintendent shall decide whether to affirm the principal's or building administrator's decision. If the Superintendent determines not to affirm the decision, the Superintendent shall determine a resolution to the parent's concern and communicate the decision to the parent. A parent may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board of Education.

If the Superintendent's decision is appealed, the Board shall review the Superintendent's decision and, if the Board determines it necessary, hold a hearing on the decision and, based on that hearing, either affirm the Superintendent's decision or determine a new resolution to the parent's concern.

As a reminder, you can always view our complete catalog of Board Policies, which can be found on our Website under [Northern Local School Board Policies](#). Board Policy 5780.01 contains the Parents' Bill of Rights.