

**Menlo Park City School District**  
181 Encinal Avenue  
Atherton, CA 94027  
Phone (650) 321-7140  
Fax (650) 321-7184  
www.mpcsd.org



**Board of Education**  
Sherwin Chen  
Scott Saywell  
Jed Scolnick  
Francesca Segrè  
Josh Spira

**Superintendent**  
Kristen Gracia

**Associate Superintendent**  
*Educational Services*  
Jammie Behrendt

**Assistant Superintendent**  
*Student Services*  
Stephanie Sheridan

**Chief Business Officer**  
Jackie Chen

---

## **MPCSD Notification to Parents/Guardians and Opt-Out Form based on Religious Beliefs** *(Mahmoud v. Taylor, June 2025)*

On June 27, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* that requires districts to provide notice and an opportunity to opt out of curriculum that undermines the religious beliefs parents wish to instill in their children.<sup>1</sup> This letter serves as an annual notification to MPCSD parents/guardians and provides a mechanism to opt out of certain curriculum and instruction on religious grounds. As the law evolves, we will continue to update our policies and practices appropriately.

The Menlo Park City School District carefully selects curriculum and materials, aligned with the California State Standards, which reflect the diverse identities, experiences, and backgrounds of our students, staff, and families, presented in an objective manner. As part of our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment, the Menlo Park City School District is committed to upholding our core value of inclusion, which includes the rights of families in accordance with the law.

Please complete this form to opt your student out of certain lessons or curriculum you believe would substantially interfere with their religious development. The questions were derived from the Supreme Court case. *Note that the only instruction for which the Supreme Court's ruling specifically required notice and an opportunity to opt out is read alouds of "LGBTQ+-inclusive storybooks."* This opt-out does **not** apply to student-initiated activities and contributions (e.g., library check-out, choice reading, student discussion or student-organized club participation). It only applies to teacher-led and planned instruction.

Students who are opted out will be assigned an alternate activity, possibly at an alternate location (e.g., the office, library, or another classroom). Parents are encouraged to explain this to their child, as removing a student from the classroom can be confusing and ostracizing to students. Teachers/staff will handle the situation professionally and will refer any student questions to parents/guardians. No student will be disciplined or discriminated against for being opted out.

Complete one form per student, which will be valid for the 2025–26 school year. Forms must be completed annually. Completed forms will be shared with your student's site administrator and teacher(s) to ensure compliance\*. Access the link to the Opt-Out form here: [MPCSD Parent/Guardian Opt-Out Form based on Religious Beliefs](#).

*\*Note: This specific form is NOT an official opt-out for the Health Connected Curriculum: Puberty Talk (5th grade) and Teen Talk (7th and 8th grade), or for the middle school California Healthy Kids Survey, which require a separate opt-out form, made available to parents ahead of the specific curriculum and survey.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The Court in *Mahmoud* only explicitly applied its ruling to a series of board-approved "LGBTQ+-inclusive storybooks" that were read aloud in classes.

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Student Name:

School:

Grade:

Teacher:

Prompts derived from the Supreme Court case *Mahmoud v Taylor*:

Please describe the specific instructional content, including types of literature and/or lessons, you wish your child to be opted out of due to religious beliefs:

Please describe your religious beliefs, customs and/or practices with which the specific instruction or content listed above substantially interferes:

Explain how the content listed above substantially interferes with your specific religious beliefs, customs, or practices:

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow five (5) school days from the completion of this form for the information to be disseminated to your student's school site/teacher(s).