

June 4, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to make you aware of **Ohio House Bill 8**, recently passed by the Ohio Legislature. This legislation, often referred to as the "Parents' Bill of Rights," outlines requirements for public schools in how we communicate with families about instructional materials and student well-being. The stated goal of the bill is to strengthen parental involvement and transparency between families and schools. We support these efforts and will continue to inform you and work together as a team.

Key Provisions of HB 8 include:

Parents must be informed about the curriculum being taught, including instructional materials related to sexuality content. All content must be age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate. No instructional content regarding sexuality is permitted in grades Prek-3. Upon request of the student's parent, a student will be excused and permitted to participate in an alternative assignment. Examples of when this topic could appear in curriculum are listed below, but not limited to the following:

Health & Physical Education

- **Health Education:** Typically includes units on human development, reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), consent, and relationships.

Language Arts / English

- **Literature Units:** Novels, plays, and poetry that explore themes of identity and relationships (e.g., *Romeo and Juliet*).

Social Studies

- **Psychology or Sociology:** Often discuss sexual development, gender and family structures.
- **History Units:** Often discuss civil rights movements, or Supreme Court decisions related to marriage and gender.

Electives

- **Family and Consumer Sciences:** Often includes units on relationships, parenting, and human development.
- **Human Development / Child Development:** Covers biological and emotional aspects of human growth, including puberty and reproductive health.

Science

- **Biology Units:** Includes reproduction, genetics, and human anatomy, which naturally involves sexuality-related topics.

Lastly, schools must notify parents about any changes in a student's mental, emotional, or physical health, including requests to use a different name. We will continue to notify parents/guardians however, we also encourage you to contact the school if you are noticing changes at home of which the school should be made aware.

If you ever have a question about our curriculum or your child's welfare please contact the school office. As part of our component of our efforts to stay in compliance with **Ohio House Bill 8**, **we will be adding a new acknowledgement form to FinalForms**. This form will serve to ensure that all parents and guardians are made aware of their rights as outlined in law.

Please log into your **FinalForms** account for the 25-26 school year and review the newly added **Parents' Bill of Rights Acknowledgement Form**. This form must be completed and submitted as part of your student's annual documentation.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this update and your continued partnership as we work to implement these changes in a way that supports all students and families. Our district is committed to open communication and to providing a conducive learning environment where all students feel supported, respected, and empowered to succeed with age appropriate and developmentally appropriate curriculum.

Thank you,
Rittman Schools Administration