



## **PARENTAL RIGHTS AND INVOLVEMENT POSITION PAPER**

### **ISSUE DEFINED**

Parents have a fundamental right to shape their children's education because they have moral and legal responsibility for raising them. As taxpayers, they trust schools to help their kids achieve their maximum potential. Yet, some schools have hidden certain activities, curriculum, materials and information from parents.

Parents also must be more involved in how schools are run and what they are teaching. Their voices deserve to be heard alongside principals and teachers.

### **WHY YOU SHOULD CARE**

Schools have an outsized influence in creating a healthy, vibrant community because of their vital role in shaping the next generation of good citizens.

### **THE CASE FOR CHANGE**

The pressures of modern society create more families with single parent households and ones where both parents work. This often leads to less parental involvement in their children's education.

Additionally, the general public are typically unaware of what's going on in the schools in their communities. If parents and taxpayers were aware of what is being taught in their schools and the poor outcomes, they would demand real solutions.

## **POLICIES WE SUPPORT**

**In a Nutshell:** We advocate for a strong positive and open partnership between teacher and parent in the education of children. This includes:

**Families and schools need to work together as equal partners throughout the learning process.** Not only is this the right of parents but the majority of teachers desire this family support which is so essential for student learning. This partnership starts with requiring school districts to be fully transparent with parents through websites, meetings or mailed reports regarding the curriculum, books, and materials utilized in their schools. Parents should also be made aware of changes to the state's academic and learning standards as well as have access to schools' test scores, teacher-student ratios, grades covered, and educational pathways and specialties.

**Parents have the right to protect their children from material and actions that conflict with their values.** Examples include exposure to sexually explicit books, unauthorized medical exams or procedures, and sharing of student data with outside parties. Schools have a moral responsibility to proactively inform and obtain parents' permission first. Parents have the right to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children.

Policies that support curriculum transparency and **the parent's right to know what their kids are being taught.**

**Local control of schools**, where school boards set policies that reflect community standards, and benefit and honor all students rather than being determined by politics or certain groups' agendas.

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