



# Parents' Bill of Rights

## Senate Bill 49

Session Law 2023-106



# NC and TCS Recognizes the Importance of Parental Involvement and responsibility in their child's education

- TCS recognizes the value of family engagement
- TCS believes the education of children is an ongoing partnership between the home and school
- TCS believes parents are their children's first teachers

The 12 Educational Rights of Parents are listed on our website with a policy reference.

# OPT-OUT vs. OPT-IN

What is the difference?

- OPT-OUT - **Every** student will participate unless a parent notifies the school they do not want their child to participate. (Usually done in writing)
- OPT-IN - **Only** students whose parents have completed the OPT-IN form or survey will be allowed to participate

# Parents have legal rights with regard to their child's education, including the following:



1. The right to consent or withhold consent for participation in reproductive health and safety education programs (Policy 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program)
  - a. Parents will opt-in their child to any health and safety education programs
    - i. Curricula related but not limited to:
      1. Sexually Transmitted diseases
      2. Reproductive health and safety education
    - ii. The previous process was in place but as an opt-out

## 2. The right to seek a medical or religious exemption from immunization requirements, consistent with the requirements

- Parents may request exemption from the immunization requirements for entry to public school on medical or religious grounds.
  - Families should provide a written statement stating their bona fide religious objection to the immunization requirements.
    - This has been in place

### 3. The right to review statewide standardized assessment results as part of the State report card



- The State Report Card and all standardized assessment results are available on the DPI Website.
  - We've listed the link on the main TCS website
  - <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports>
- Access has always been available to the public

## 4. The right to request an evaluation of their child for an academically or intellectually gifted program, or for identification as a child with a disability, as provided in Article 9 of this Chapter

- TCS's AIG plan addresses evaluation for academically or intellectually gifted programs. We welcome parents' requests for evaluations of their children.
  - [TCS AIG Plan](#)
  - This has always been in place.

5. The right to inspect and purchase public school unit textbooks and other supplementary instructional materials, as provided in Part 3 of Article 8 of this Chapter.

- Parents wishing to review and/or purchase textbooks or instructional materials should request, in writing, their wishes to the principal.
  - The right to inspect the textbooks has always been in place.





## 6. The right to access information relating to the unit's policies for promotion or retention, including high school graduation requirements

- We have listed a link to the policy on our website
  - <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/standard-course-study>
  - <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/high-school-graduation-requirements>
- TCS has specific promotion and retention standards which have always been listed in the student handbook

7. The right to receive student report cards on a regular basis that clearly depict and grade the student's academic performance in each class or course, the student's conduct, and the student's attendance.

- Our report cards go out every nine-weeks.
- Our progress reports go out every 4.5-5 weeks
  - Currently, only K-5 have conduct on their report cards but we are working to put the conduct/office referrals/discipline on 6-12 report cards as well.

8. The right to access information relating to the State public education system, State standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and textbook requirements.

- A link to this information is available on the [DPI website](#)
  - This has always been available to the public

## 9. The right to participate in parent-teacher organizations.

- All parents, though voluntary, are encouraged to participate in parent-teacher conferences
- Every school in Transylvania County has an opportunity for parents to participate at their child's school
  - A sample of the opportunities available:
    - Parent Teacher Organizations - available at every school
      - High Schools are in forms of Booster Clubs
    - Volunteering on field trips or in the classroom
    - Fundraising
    - Cookouts
    - Arts Night
    - School Improvement Team
  - These opportunities have always been available.

# 10. The right to opt in to certain data collection for their child, as provided in Part 5 of this Article and Article 29 of this Chapter



- Parents must opt-in before a student can participate in surveys that contain protected topics, such as but not limited to:
  - Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
  - Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
  - Sex behavior and attitudes;
  - Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  - Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  - Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
  - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or
  - Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

# 11. The right for students to participate in protected student information surveys only with parental consent, as provided in Part 5 of this Article

- Currently, I have been reviewing surveys from teachers to students before the survey goes to the child
- Principals can also review the surveys prior to being sent to the student
- We are looking for a secure program that will allow parents to view the questions first, and then opt-in for their child to take the survey
  - This requirement is the same as the previous slide

## 12. The right to review all available records of materials their child has borrowed from a school library



- Parents can view all books checked out through the library via the child's Destiny account.
  - We are working to make sure every student has an account and will provide access instructions once this is in place
  - Parents can ask the principal to view all classroom materials as well.

# TCS is actively looking for a program, to conduct surveys, that can be accessed in PS



- Currently, this can be achieved through the Daily Bulletin in PS but each school's data manager would have to post each survey for the teachers. We are looking for a simpler solution that would not put extra work on anyone
- Once in place, parents will see all questions before granting their permission for their child to participate
- Until this program/process is in place, the Superintendent has been previewing surveys before they are released to students
  - Some districts have suspended surveys until a program is in place, as well as clearer definitions of each protected topic



# To Summarize, Parents have:



- Right to Information
  - **Education Records** - process has not changed
  - **Medical Records** - process has not changed
  - **State Report Card** - process has not changed - (DPI Website)
  - **Promotion and Retention Policies** - process has not changed
  - **State Standards** - process has not changed - (DPI Website)
  - **Reproductive Health and Safety Education Materials** - process has not changed
  - **Parents' Guide to Student Achievement** - Current, Back to School Guide on our website will be updated to meet all requirements by January 1, 2024 utilizing a template provided by NCDPI

# To Summarize, Parents have:



- Right to Information (continued)
  - **Expanded Student Report Cards** - no change for K-5. 6-12 report cards will be updated by January 1, 2024)
  - **Protected Information Surveys** - An OPT-IN process will be implemented by January 1, 2024
  - **Suspected Criminal Offenses Committed Against child:** Continue to use SRO's to report criminal behavior. Principal will notify parents
  - **Textbooks, Instructional Materials, and Supplementary Materials:** Provide request, in writing, to principal
  - **Clubs and Activities:** A list of clubs available, with a description, at each school will be provided on our website by January 1, 2024.
    - These will be broken down between school sponsored, student led, and extracurricular opportunities.

# To Summarize, Parents have:



- Right to Information (continued)
  - **Health Care Services:** A list of services offered will be provided by the December 1, 2023 deadline
  - **Changes in “services or monitoring” related to a child’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being:** A list of services will be available by the deadline
  - **Well-Being Questionnaire and Health Screening Forms:** Opt-In process will be available by December 1, 2023
  - **Name Change Requests:** Any changes after August 16, parents will be notified
  - **Pronoun Change Requests:** Any changes after August 16, parents will be notified
  - **Responding to Parent Requests for Information:** A request, in writing, from the parent will be needed

# Questions

