

Board Policy 2425: PPRA - Parental Rights

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 06/18/24 | Last Reviewed Date: | Last Revised Date:

The Mountain Home School District No. 193 Board of Trustees recognizes the fundamental rights and responsibilities of parents as primary stakeholders to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees adopts this policy to promote the involvement of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the District's schools.

The Board of Trustees encourages parents/guardians to be involved in their student's school activities and academic progress. As required by IC 33-6001, the District reinforces the rights and responsibilities of parents as primary stakeholders to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their child.

The Board is mandated to adhere to laws, rules, and regulations including the Constitution of the State of Idaho; the rules of the Idaho State Board of Education (Idaho Administrative Procedures Act); the rules and regulations of the Idaho State Department of Education; the laws, rules, and regulations of the federal government and the U.S. Department of Education; as well as educational provisions outlined in the Idaho Code. These mandates include the requirement stated at Article IX, Section 1 of the Idaho Constitution that it is "... the duty of the Legislature of Idaho to maintain a general, uniform, and thorough system of public, free common schools."

Based upon the above provisions, as well as the State's mandated requirements for advancement and graduation, the District has established its practices, policies, and procedures as well as the approved curriculum and assessment program. Failure to follow the District's practices, policies, and procedures as well as the school's curriculum and assessment program amounts to a violation of State and/or federal laws, rules, and regulations by the District, including but not limited to the failure to provide a general, thorough, free, and uniform system of public education as well as putting the District's operations and funding in jeopardy.

PARENTAL OBJECTIONS TO LEARNING MATERIALS OR ACTIVITIES:

Parents/guardians and students are expected to abide by the District's practices, policies, and procedures governing the operation of the schools which are required by various State and/or federal laws, rules, and regulations. However, a student's parent/guardian has the right to reasonable academic accommodation if the accommodation does not substantially impact District staff and resources, including employee working conditions, safety, and supervision on school premises for school activities, and the efficient allocation of expenditures. The District will strive to balance the rights of parents/guardians, the educational needs of other students, the academic and behavioral impacts to a classroom, a teacher's workload, and the assurance of the safe and efficient operations of the school.

Parents/guardians who have an objection to the District's implementation of various mandates through the District's practices, policies, and procedures, or an objection to their child's participation in the District's adopted curriculum, and who would like to request reasonable academic accommodation the appropriate avenue for the parent/guardian is to first seek to address such concerns through communication with their child's teacher. If a reasonable accommodation cannot be reached, parents/guardians should then address such request with building administration. Should that avenue not resolve the situation, a parent/guardian is free to address such concerns with the Board of Trustees in conformance with Board policy regarding public participation at Board meetings.

A parent/guardian who has an objection to their child's participation in the District's adopted curriculum and/or the District's implementation of practices, policies, and procedures in accordance with educational mandates, on the basis that it harms the child or impairs the parents' firmly held beliefs, values, or principles, may withdraw their child from the activity, class, or program. Except in the case of sex education curriculum, a parent/guardian who chooses to not have their child participate in the provided educational activity shall be responsible for identification and provision of non-disruptive alternative educational activities for their child during any time of objection, at no cost to the District.

Parents/guardians who withdraw their child from the district-provided class, activity, or program are responsible for identification and provision of alternative educational activities for their child during any time the child is not participating in the district-provided activity, at no cost to the District. an activity, class, or program required for advancement or graduation under board or state approved curricula does not waive requirements and may result in adverse consequences to the child's education, including but not limited to, ineligibility to advance to the next grade level, ineligibility to enroll in other classes, and/or denial of diplomas or other certificates.

The final decision of the selected alternative educational activity will be first at the discretion of the child's teacher or building principal, and if necessary, the District, with input from the parents/ guardians, considering requirements for the child's advancement and graduation and considering the reasonable accommodation provisions set forth herein.

In the case of dual credit courses offered by an institution of higher education, academic accommodations and excusing students from objectionable assignments is solely at the discretion of the course provider and not the District. The District has no control over the selection, adoption and removal of curricular materials and it is the responsibility of the parent to have knowledge of and/or review such prior to student enrollment.

The District is not responsible for the selection, adoption, and removal of curricular material for dual credit courses offered by an institution of higher education. Academic accommodations and excusal of students from objectionable material is at the sole discretion of the course provider. Parents/guardians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with dual credit course instructional materials prior to student enrollment in such courses.

REQUIREMENTS NOT WAIVED

Withdrawing a child from an activity, class, or program required for advancement or graduation under board or state approved curricula does not waive requirements and may result in adverse consequences to the child's education, including but not limited to, ineligibility to advance to the next grade level, ineligibility to enroll in other classes, and/or denial of diplomas or other certificates.

ACCESS TO LEARNING MATERIALS

Parents/guardians are entitled to review all learning materials, instructional materials, and other teaching aids used in their student's classroom. Teachers are encouraged to notify parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year how to access classroom learning materials. Parents/guardians may contact their student's teacher or school administration for access to learning materials during school hours.

STUDENT WELLBEING

If a member of the District's staff becomes aware of a change in the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, the staff member shall report this change so the student's parent/guardian can be notified as described in Procedure 2425.

STUDENT CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

Consistent with Idaho law and district policy, school personnel will notify a student's parents/guardians if a student has been or may be questioned by a school resource officer or other law enforcement official, unless the child is a victim or suspected victim of physical child abuse.

STUDENT SURVEYS

Prior to the administration of any noncurricular-related student survey, well-being questionnaire, or health screening to any student, the school personnel administering such survey, questionnaire or screening must first obtain consent from the superintendent or designee. If the content of any such survey, questionnaire or screening regards an individual student's sexuality, sex, religion, personal political beliefs, mental or psychological problems, personal family information, or individual or family financial information, school personnel shall provide the survey, questionnaire, or screening form to the student's parents/guardians in advance and obtain written permission from the parents/guardians for the student's participation.

SCHOOL VISITATION BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians shall have reasonable access to observe all school activities during school hours at the school in which their child is enrolled unless the parent/guardian is otherwise legally prohibited from accessing the child's school. Observations of individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted with the building principal's and teacher's prior approval. The building principal reserves the right to limit or refuse

visitations by parents/guardians if their occurrence, duration, frequency, or conduct on campus interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment. Additionally, nothing in this policy shall prevent the reasonable denial of entry due to emergency or safety drills, situations outlined in school safety plans, an emergency lockdown, periods of statewide testing, school officials' enforcement of school governance provisions set forth in Idaho Code §33-512 or other specific situations enumerated by the school.

ADDRESSING PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERNS

A parent/guardian who feels the District has violated their rights, as described in this policy and otherwise provided in IC 33-6001 may file a grievance as described in the District's Patron Complaint Policy 4120 Uniform Grievance Policy.

ANNUAL NOTICE

The District's annual notification to parents and guardians of children enrolled in the District's schools of the parent's or guardian's rights as specified above can be found via all the District school buildings' websites and/or student handbooks. In addition, at the start of each school year, the District shall notify parents/guardians of health services offered or made available through the school or by private organizations, including preventative health and wellness services, screenings, medication administration, first aid and emergency care, and appropriate management of all health conditions. The notice will include a statement that all such health services will be provided only with parental consent and that such parental consent does not waive parents/guardians' right to access their children's educational or associated health records or to be notified about their children's health status or monitoring.

Each school building of the Mountain Home School District will notify parents and guardians of their rights as specified above through notification on school building websites, and by referencing a statement in the Student Handbooks.

Legal References	Description
IC § 32-1015	Parental Rights in Medical Decision Making
IC § 32-1010	Intent of the Legislature – Parental Rights
IC § 32-1012	Parental Right to Direct the Education of Children
IC § 32-1013	Interference with Fundamental Parental Rights Restricted
IC § 33-1213	Interference with Fundamental Parental Rights Restricted
IC § 33-6001	Parental Rights
IC § 33-6002	Annual Notice of Parental Rights
Id. Const. art. IX	Education and School Lands
IDAPA §§ 08.01-.04	State Board of Education and State Department of Education Administrative Rules