

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 547 (HB 387)

2018 Regular Session

Edmonds

Existing law provides for the "Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools". New law excepts parents of children who have reached the age of majority from applicability of the specified rights and makes the bill of rights applicable to charter school parents.

Existing law provides relative to a parent's right to inspect his child's school records, including academic records, medical or health records, records of any mental health counseling, or records of any vocational counseling. New law specifies that academic records include results of interim or benchmark assessments. New law provides that a parent has a right to receive a copy of records within 10 business days of a written request. Provides that electronic records shall be provided at no cost and paper copies at a reasonable cost.

New law adds the following records to those a parent has the right to inspect or receive copies of: discipline records; attendance records; records associated with a student's screening for learning challenges, exceptionalities, an Individualized Education Program, or Individual Accommodation Plan; and other student-specific files, documents, or other materials that are maintained by the school.

New law adds the following parental rights:

- (1) To receive from the school the annual school calendar no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the school year. At a minimum, school officials shall include on the calendar:
 - (a) Student attendance days.
 - (b) Any events that require parent or student attendance outside of normal school hours.
- (2) To annually receive in writing or to view on the school's website:
 - (a) A list of required fees and their purpose and use.
 - (b) A description of the required student uniform.
- (3) To be informed if their child's low academic performance could affect their child's ability to advance to the next grade level. Further provides such parents have a right to be offered a meeting with the student's teacher and school leader to discuss strategies and resources to improve the student's academic performance.

Existing law provides for the following parental rights:

- (1) To examine the textbooks, lesson plans, curriculum, and supplemental material used in their child's classroom.
- (2) To be notified when medical services are being offered to their child.
- (3) To be notified if a criminal action is deemed to have been committed against their child or by their child.
- (4) To be notified if law enforcement personnel question their child.
- (5) To be notified if their child is taken or removed from the school campus.
- (6) To request and expect their child's family religious beliefs to be respected.
- (7) To receive written notice and to opt their child out of any surveys that include questions about the student's sexual experiences or attractions; the student's family beliefs, morality, religion, or political affiliations; or any mental health or psychological problems of the student or a family member.

- (8) To receive written notice and to opt their child out of instruction on topics associated with sexual activity.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 17:406.9(B)(intro. para.) and (2)(intro. para.) and (a); Adds R.S. 17:406.9(B)(2)(e)-(h) and (10)-(13) and 3996(B)(45))