

# PARENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

Governor Abbott has prioritized education since taking office. During his tenure, he designated Pre-K funding as his first emergency item as governor in 2015. He led efforts to reform the school finance system, creating a student-focused educational structure where the needs of a child will determine funding allocation while also providing outcomes-based incentive funding.

However, many parents in Texas have watched as their roles in the classroom have diminished. Governor Abbott pledges to bolster the Parental Bill of Rights, ensuring that Texas parents remain the primary decision makers in their child's education.

## PARENTS ARE PRIMARY DECISION MAKERS

*Amend the Texas Constitution to reinforce that parents are the main decision makers in all matters involving their minor children. Parental decisions cannot be overridden without due process of law.*

Common sense dictates that parents are, in fact, the main decision makers in matters involving their children. However, some have challenged this historic right of parents. Under the Parental Bill of Rights, Governor Abbott proposes amending the Texas Constitution to ensure this principle is a guaranteed right in Texas for generations to come.

## ACCESS TO COURSE CURRICULUM

*Expand parents' rights to access course curriculum and all material that is available in any education setting for their student through online posting and other methods so parents know what topics will be taught.*

In order for parents to be involved in their child's education, they must know what their children are being taught. Under the Parental Bill of Rights, Governor Abbott would require schools to provide course curriculum at the beginning of every semester, and to make that information available through online posting or other methods—making it easily accessible for parents.

*Ensure that a parent's concerns with school curriculum or policies are considered quickly and respectfully and that parents are given the respect they deserve by teachers, school administrators, and all other school employees.*

Local school districts and schools have local grievance procedures when parents file a formal complaint with a school. However, each school district has its own timeline and complaint forms, resulting in a lengthy process. Additionally, there have been reports of some school districts prohibiting parents from voicing their concerns about school curriculum and policies. Under Governor Abbott's proposal, parents would have a right to voice their concerns to school officials, including school administrators, and those officials would be required to consider parents' concerns quickly and respectfully.

## PROTECTING STUDENTS

*Require that schools are not collecting unnecessary personal data about students and that schools are not sharing or selling any student data outside of the Texas public education system.*

School districts may collect data on students to assist them in making more informed policy decisions, increasing accountability, and determining school funding. Under Governor Abbott's proposal, the privacy of each student would be protected by prohibiting the selling or sharing of students' personal data outside of the Texas public education system.

*Ensure that any educational personnel convicted of providing minors access to pornographic materials lose all their educational public credentials and state licensing, forfeit their retirement benefits, and be placed on the do not hire list.*

Recently, Texas parents found pornographic materials in school libraries, prompting Governor Abbott to direct the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and the State Board of Education to develop statewide standards to prevent the presence of pornographic books in school libraries. Under the Parental Bill of Rights, any educational personnel convicted of providing minors access to pornographic materials would lose their public credentials and state licensing. In addition, those individuals would lose their retirement benefits and be placed on the TEA's "Do Not Hire Registry," ensuring that they never teach at a Texas public school again.

## NOTIFYING PARENTS OF THEIR RIGHTS

*Empower parents by ensuring school districts provide them the Texas Parental Bill of Rights, including providing parents with information and options for sending their children to charter schools, magnet schools and schools in other districts.*

Governor Abbott proposes on bolstering parental rights by requiring schools to post the Texas Parental Bill of Rights online so parents have access to all their rights as they relate to their child's education. Additionally, school districts would be required to provide parents with information and options for charter schools, magnet schools and other public schools for their children.

*Give parents the option to decide if their child should repeat a course or grade level, instead of leaving that decision in the sole hands of the school district.*

Last year, Governor Abbott signed a law giving parents more say in whether their children should repeat a course or grade level, instead of being promoted to the next grade. Though this law is permanent for students in Pre-K-3rd grade, it was only an option for older students going into the 2021-2022 school year. Under Governor Abbott's proposal, parents would retain the ability to make this option for their child all throughout their Pre-K-12 grade career.

**Abbott**  
GOVERNOR

**SECURING THE FUTURE OF TEXAS**