

HB 634 -- PROTECTION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

SPONSOR: Kelley (127)

This bill requires that before July 1, 2024 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall develop a model procedure for parental notification of any change in a pupil's mental, emotional, or physical health and a school's services or ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment. Such policy will include procedures to allow parents to access pupils' education and health records. School districts must adopt a policy of this nature for the 2024-25 school term. The bill includes specific procedures that must be included.

School personnel are prohibited from providing classroom instruction relating to sexual orientation or gender identity.

The bill requires school districts to notify parents of health care services offered to students and provide an option to withhold or decline such services for their student. Schools are restricted from administration of questionnaires relating to the well-being or health of students in grades K-three without first obtaining the parental permission.

The bill requires DESE to update school counseling frameworks, educator practices, and any other pupil services guidelines before July 1, 2024 to align with the provisions of this section.

Procedures relating to violations of the provisions of this section are outlined and the State Board of Education is empowered to appoint a neutral mediator from a list maintained by DESE. The bill includes penalty provisions for any violation to include damages for a parent receiving declaratory or injunctive relief.