

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1287

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS.

2488H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto five new sections relating to rights of parents and educators.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto five new sections, to be known as sections 160.1051, 160.1056, 160.1061, 160.1066, and 160.1071, to read as follows:

160.1051. 1. Sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Educators and Parental Empowerment and Rights Act".

2. As used in sections 160.1051 to 160.1071, the following terms mean:

(1) "Local educational agency" or "LEA", each:

(a) School district; and

(b) Charter school that has declared itself a local educational agency;

(2) "Parent", a child's parent, legal guardian, or other person having charge, control, or custody of the child;

(3) "Public school", the same definition as in section 160.011.

3. (1) The general assembly hereby recognizes that:

(a) Teachers have a profound effect on Missouri children, second only to parents; and

(b) Considering the years of education and continuous updating of knowledge that teachers undertake and achieve, it is important and necessary for the success of society in this state that teachers be given the respect such teachers have earned and deserve.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **(2) The general assembly hereby declares that it is the public policy of this state:**

18 **(a) That respecting the authority of teachers in public schools is essential to**
19 **creating an environment conducive to learning, effective instruction in the classroom,**
20 **and proper administration of public schools; and**

21 **(b) To promote safe, respectful, and orderly learning environments by**
22 **reinforcing teacher authority in maintaining classroom discipline, enhancing parental**
23 **involvement in student behavioral issues, and encouraging schools to develop policies**
24 **that foster ethical responsibility, community standards, and personal resilience in**
25 **students.**

26 **4. (1) No provision of sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 shall be construed to**
27 **infringe upon the parental rights of families.**

28 **(2) Sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 shall be construed to recognize that, within the**
29 **classroom, teachers stand in loco parentis to maintain an environment conducive to**
30 **learning.**

160.1056. 1. (1) Each local educational agency shall develop policies and
2 **procedures for such LEA to follow to accommodate and assist parents in the exercise of**
3 **the parental rights to know and receive information as described in sections 160.1051 to**
4 **160.1071. Such policies and procedures shall describe the methods such LEA shall use**
5 **to allow parents to exercise such parental rights to the fullest extent.**

6 **(2) Each school board and charter school's governing board shall affirm the**
7 **board's commitment to ensuring sufficient and effective accountability and**
8 **transparency to parents in the school district by adopting policies that:**

9 **(a) Recognize and affirm the protected right of parents to seek effective means of**
10 **outreach to supervise and guide the education of their minor child;**

11 **(b) Assist parents in the exercise of parental rights to the fullest extent;**

12 **(c) Encourage communication between parents and board members relating to**
13 **parental rights and parental concerns about their minor child's education and**
14 **educational experience;**

15 **(d) Collaborate with parents to identify ways in which parents can exercise**
16 **parental rights and communicate such ways to parents in a clear, consistent manner that**
17 **can be easily understood by all parents; and**

18 **(e) Conduct board meetings in compliance with section 162.058, subject to the**
19 **authorized closure of any portion of such meeting under section 610.021 when such**
20 **meeting pertains to curricula or general safety.**

21 **(3) Each school board and charter school's governing board shall adopt such**
22 **policies and procedures for the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years.**

23 **2. Each local educational agency and public school shall develop policies and**
24 **procedures for such LEA or public school to follow to notify parents in a timely manner**
25 **of all reported incidents pertaining to student safety including, but not limited to, any**
26 **instance of a teacher or other school employee being detained or arrested for or charged**
27 **with any felony or misdemeanor and any act or instance reportable under subsection 1,**
28 **2, or 3 of section 167.117, except that no personally identifiable information about any**
29 **individual involved shall be released.**

30 **3. Each local educational agency and public school shall provide prompt**
31 **notification to parents or guardians of any serious disciplinary incidents involving their**
32 **child and shall offer a meeting or conference to discuss the behavior and outline steps**
33 **for correction and improvement.**

34 **4. (1) Each local educational agency and public school shall adopt reasonable**
35 **procedures for parents to follow when exercising the parental right to visit the school**
36 **and their minor child during school hours.**

37 **(2) Each local educational agency and public school shall adopt reasonable**
38 **procedures for parents to follow:**

39 **(a) During an emergency in which the safety of the students requires:**

40 **a. A lockdown to limit exposure of building occupants to an imminent hazard or**
41 **threat; or**

42 **b. A lockout to prevent an outside hazard or threat from entering the building;**
43 **or**

44 **(b) When such local educational agency or public school is required to prohibit**
45 **an individual from having any interaction with a minor child that violates any order**
46 **entered under any provision of state or federal law restricting or prohibiting such**
47 **individual from interacting with such minor child.**

48 **5. (1) Teachers, school administrators, parents, and students shall be fully**
49 **informed of the rights conferred upon parents and teachers under sections 160.1051 to**
50 **160.1071. Each school district shall provide a copy of sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 to**
51 **each parent, teacher, and student at the beginning of each school year.**

52 **(2) Each local educational agency and public school under the jurisdiction of**
53 **such LEA's board that maintains a website shall post the rights listed in sections**
54 **160.1051 to 160.1071 on such LEA's or public school's website.**

55 **6. (1) Each local educational agency shall adopt, publicly post, and annually**
56 **review a code of student conduct as described in sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 that sets**
57 **forth expectations for behavior consistent with ethical responsibility, community**
58 **standards, and respect for school authority.**

59 **(2) Each local educational agency shall adopt and enforce such code of student**
60 **conduct and policies described in sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 for the 2026-27 school**
61 **year and all subsequent school years.**

62 **(3) The state department of elementary and secondary education may offer**
63 **guidance and technical assistance to local educational agencies to ensure compliance.**
64 **The department shall not impose undue burdens or mandates on such LEAs.**

65 **7. The code of student conduct required under subsection 6 of this section shall:**

66 **(1) Reinforce respect for teachers, administrators, and staff, emphasizing that**
67 **willful disobedience or disrespect toward school personnel is not tolerated;**

68 **(2) Promote high expectations of personal responsibility, encouraging students to**
69 **uphold traditional values such as honesty, diligence, and civility;**

70 **(3) Include measures to address and correct disruptive behavior promptly,**
71 **ensuring that teachers have the necessary authority and support to remove students**
72 **from classrooms when warranted;**

73 **(4) Outline a system of graduated consequences for misconduct, balanced by**
74 **opportunities for students to develop personal resilience and reflect on their actions**
75 **through district-approved interventions;**

76 **(5) Require parental notification and involvement in significant disciplinary**
77 **actions, ensuring that parents have timely information and opportunities to engage with**
78 **teachers and administrators; and**

79 **(6) Clearly prohibit any policy or program that differentiates treatment of**
80 **students primarily on the basis of race or other immutable characteristics, ensuring that**
81 **all disciplinary measures are applied equally and fairly to every student.**

82 **8. (1) A local educational agency may, at such LEA's discretion and with school**
83 **board or governing board approval, incorporate evidence-based training for teachers**
84 **and counselors on strategies to guide students toward personal resilience.**

85 **(2) Such strategies may include:**

86 **(a) Encouraging personal responsibility and self-management;**

87 **(b) Providing students with opportunities to develop coping skills, conflict**
88 **resolution techniques, and appropriate responses to authority; and**

89 **(c) Using school counselors or other qualified personnel to offer supportive**
90 **interventions that emphasize respect for self and others, problem solving, and**
91 **perseverance.**

92 **(3) The content and method of delivering such strategies shall not reference or**
93 **require any training or curriculum primarily focused on race, gender, or other similar**
94 **classifications. Such strategies shall emphasize universal community standards that**
95 **benefit all students equally.**

96 **9. Teachers shall have the authority, subject to local educational agency**
97 **guidelines, to remove a student from the classroom for behavior that substantially**
98 **disrupts the learning environment or shows a willful disregard for authority.**

99 **10. Each local educational agency shall ensure that teachers and staff are trained**
100 **in methods to maintain order, encourage compliance, and foster respect, using an**
101 **approach grounded in traditional values and personal responsibility.**

102 **11. Each local educational agency shall make efforts to facilitate parental**
103 **engagement through regular communication, opportunities for parents to review and**
104 **understand the policy handbook, and the provision of resources that support ethical**
105 **responsibility and community standards at home.**

160.1061. 1. No local educational agency or public school shall require
2 **nondisclosure agreements or similar forms for a parent's review of curricula. Each**
3 **LEA or public school shall allow parents to make a copy of curriculum documents or**
4 **receive such curriculum documents in an electronic format, provided that no request**
5 **would cause an infringement of copyright protections provided under the federal**
6 **Copyright Act of 1976 (17 U.S.C. Section 101 et seq.), as amended.**

7 **2. No local educational agency or public school shall require nondisclosure**
8 **agreements or similar forms for a parent's review of individualized education program**
9 **meetings, mediations, due process hearings, or other dispute resolution options as**
10 **outlined in accordance with 34 CFR 300.320 to 300.324 and under 20 U.S.C. Section**
11 **1401, as amended.**

12 **3. No local educational agency or public school shall allow student involvement**
13 **in school assemblies, except for assemblies organized solely for the support of student**
14 **athletics or co-curricular events, or field trips unless the child's parents provide written**
15 **authorization for such student involvement.**

16 **4. No local educational agency or public school shall collect any biometric data**
17 **or other sensitive personal information about a minor child without obtaining written**
18 **parental consent before collecting such data or information.**

19 **5. No local educational agency or public school shall provide any school records**
20 **as described in subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section 160.1056 in violation of any**
21 **relevant state or federal privacy law or policy protecting or limiting access to such**
22 **minor child's school records.**

23 **6. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no**
24 **employee of any local educational agency or public school shall encourage, coerce, or**
25 **attempt to coerce a minor child to withhold information from such minor child's**
26 **parents.**

27 **(2) Any such employee required to report suspected abuse or neglect under**
28 **sections 210.109 to 210.183 may encourage a minor child to withhold information where**
29 **disclosure could reasonably result in abuse or neglect.**

30 **7. No political subdivision of this state shall establish policies that prevent a**
31 **parent or teacher from exercising the rights listed in sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 or in**
32 **any other provision of law.**

33 **8. No provision of sections 160.1051 to 160.1071 shall be construed to supersede**
34 **any other state law, any regulation or policy adopted by the state department of**
35 **elementary and secondary education or the state board of education, or any political**
36 **subdivision's order, ordinance, or policy relating to the discipline of students.**

160.1066. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Parents' Bill
2 **of Rights".**

3 **2. This section shall be construed to empower parents with the following rights:**

4 **(1) The right to know what their minor child is being taught in school including,**
5 **but not limited to, curricula adopted under section 160.514;**

6 **(2) The right to receive information, upon request, about who is teaching their**
7 **minor child including, but not limited to, guest lecturers and outside presenters;**

8 **(3) The right to receive information, upon request, about individuals and**
9 **organizations receiving school contracts and funding in the school in which their minor**
10 **child is enrolled, except that no personally identifiable information about any student**
11 **shall be released;**

12 **(4) The right to visit the school and check in on their minor child during school**
13 **hours;**

14 **(5) The right to view and, upon request, receive all school records, medical or**
15 **otherwise, concerning their minor child;**

16 **(6) The right to receive information about the collection and transmission of**
17 **their minor child's data;**

18 **(7) The right to have sufficient and effective accountability and transparency**
19 **regarding school boards; and**

20 **(8) The right to know about situations affecting their minor child's safety in**
21 **school.**

22 **3. This section shall not be construed to limit the inalienable rights of a parent or**
23 **taxpayer, regardless of whether such rights are enumerated in the provisions of this**
24 **section.**

160.1071. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Educators'
2 **Bill of Rights".**

3 **2. To maintain and protect the authority of teachers in public schools, each**
4 **teacher has the following rights under this section:**

5 **(1) To be free from physical abuse from a student or a parent of a student and to**
6 **be protected from oral, written, or electronically generated abuse from any student or**
7 **parent. Such abuse is grounds for the suspension of the student as provided in chapter**
8 **167 and subsequent abuse may result in expulsion of the student;**

9 **(2) To be evaluated for competency by an administrator under board policy. If**
10 **such evaluation becomes harassment, such teacher has the right to mediation of**
11 **grievances by a committee of such teacher's peers and another administrator;**

12 **(3) To exercise the freedom of speech, religion, and the expression of such**
13 **teacher's opinions through the media as is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United**
14 **States;**

15 **(4) To be treated with civility and respect as a professional and to be free from**
16 **any requirement by school administration to perform tasks unrelated to such teacher's**
17 **employment and that are onerous or result in an undue burden on such teacher;**

18 **(5) To be given classroom preparation time each day during the regular**
19 **classroom hours;**

20 **(6) To be free from coercion to:**

21 **(a) Participate in or promote a political, social, religious, or ethical position that**
22 **violates such teacher's personal religious convictions; or**

23 **(b) Engage in political or social activism during school hours since schools**
24 **should be free from such activities;**

25 **(7) To teach protected by qualified immunity and to be entitled to a legal defense**
26 **and indemnification, to be provided at the expense of the teacher's employing local**
27 **educational agency, for all claims arising from actions taken in the performance of**
28 **duties of such teacher's employment, as provided by state law;**

29 **(8) To have such teacher's professional judgment and discretion respected by**
30 **school and local educational agency administrators in any disciplinary action taken by**
31 **such teacher in accordance with state law and policies or procedures adopted by such**
32 **teacher's school board;**

33 **(9) To be afforded all rights any other individual in such teacher's local**
34 **community has without making such teacher's classroom a hostile environment to**
35 **students of a different philosophical, religious, or ethical persuasion;**

36 **(10) To teach in a safe, secure, and orderly environment that is conducive to**
37 **learning and free from recognized dangers or hazards that are causing or likely to cause**
38 **serious injury, as provided by state law;**

39 **(11) To intervene for the protection of pupils in incidents of school violence and**
40 **be entitled to all defenses to criminal charges available to the intervenor under chapter**
41 **563; and**

42 **(12) If such teacher is a beginning teacher, to receive leadership and support in**
43 **accordance with state law including, but not limited to, the assignment of a qualified,**
44 **experienced mentor who commits to helping such teacher become a competent,**
45 **confident professional in the classroom and who offers support and assistance as needed**
46 **to help such teacher meet performance standards and professional expectations.**

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