

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1767

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS.

4307H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto four 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 four new sections, to
2 be known as sections 160.1052, 160.1053, 160.1054, and 160.1055, to read as follows:

**160.1052. 1. Sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "Missouri Educators and Parental Empowerment and Rights Act".**

3 **2. As used in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055, the following terms mean:**

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

5 **(a) School district as defined in section 160.011;**

6 **(b) Charter school as described in section 160.400; and**

7 **(c) Virtual school as described in section 161.670;**

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

10 **3. The general assembly hereby recognizes that:**

11 **(1) The collaboration of both parents and teachers has a profound effect on the
12 educational success of Missouri's children;**

13 **(2) Education is essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the
14 people;**

15 **(3) Considering that parents are the first teachers of their children and are
16 uniquely qualified to understand and advocate for their children, the state recognizes
17 the importance of parents in the education of their children; and**

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.

18 (4) Considering the years of education and continuous updating of knowledge
19 that teachers undertake and achieve, it is important that teachers be given the respect
20 such teachers have earned and deserve.

 160.1053. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Parents' Bill
2 of Rights".

3 2. To foster and maintain collaboration between parents and teachers, parents
4 shall have the following rights under this section:

5 (1) The right to receive information, upon request, regarding what their minor
6 child is being taught in school including, but not limited to, curricula adopted under
7 section 160.514;

8 (2) The right to review such curricula, upon request, free from any requirement
9 to agree to a nondisclosure agreement or other similar form, as allowed by law;

10 (3) The right to receive information, upon request, about who is teaching their
11 minor child including, but not limited to, guest lecturers and outside presenters;

12 (4) The right to receive information, upon request, about individuals and
13 organizations receiving LEA contracts and funding in the LEA in which their minor
14 child is enrolled, except that no personally identifiable information about any student
15 shall be released;

16 (5) The right to visit the school their minor child attends during school hours in
17 accordance with reasonable regulations created under section 160.1055;

18 (6) The right to view and, upon request, receive a copy of all school records,
19 medical or otherwise, concerning their minor child, in accordance with state and federal
20 law;

21 (7) The right to receive information, upon request, about the collection of their
22 minor child's data and the transmission of such data to entities outside the LEA;

23 (8) The right to have an LEA governing board that is open, transparent, and
24 accountable to the patrons of the LEA under state and federal laws;

25 (9) The right to be informed regarding situations affecting their minor child's
26 safety in school, in accordance with section 160.1055;

27 (10) The right to provide authorization for their minor child to participate in
28 field trips; and

29 (11) The right to be free from their minor child being encouraged or
30 experiencing any attempt at coercion to withhold information from such minor child's
31 parents by an LEA employee, except that any such employee required to report
32 suspected abuse or neglect under sections 210.109 to 210.183 may encourage a minor
33 child to withhold information where disclosure could reasonably result in abuse or
34 neglect.

160.1054. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Educators' Bill of Rights".

2. To foster and maintain collaboration between teachers and parents, each teacher has the following rights under this section:

(1) The right to be free from physical abuse from a student. Such abuse is grounds for the suspension or expulsion of the student as provided in chapter 167;

(2) The right to be free from physical abuse from a parent and to be protected from oral, written, or electronically generated threats of harm. Such abuse is grounds for the prohibition of the physical presence of the perpetrator of such abuse on the LEA's property and at the LEA's events and may result in other legal actions taken by such teacher;

(3) The right to be evaluated for competency by an administrator under board policy and, upon request, to be assigned a peer mentor to observe and coach the teacher;

(4) The right to exercise the freedom of speech, religion, and the expression of such teacher's opinions as is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States;

(5) The right to be treated with civility and respect as a professional;

(6) The right to be given regularly scheduled preparation time during contract hours;

(7) The right to teach protected by official immunity, as provided by state law, and to be covered by LEA insurance for work-related duties;

(8) The right to have the opportunity to implement a discipline plan in the classroom as allowed in section 160.1055 and to have the opportunity to provide the administration with such teacher's professional opinion regarding the discipline of a student;

(9) The right to be considered a professional, with all the appropriate rights, responsibilities, and privileges afforded to other recognized professions, in accordance with section 168.011;

(10) The right to teach in a safe, secure, and orderly environment that is conducive to learning and to report any concerns regarding the safety and security of the teaching environment and receive a response from the LEA;

(11) The right to intervene for the protection of pupils in incidents of school violence and be entitled to all defenses to criminal charges available to the intervenor under chapter 563; and

(12) If such teacher is a beginning teacher, the right to receive leadership and support in accordance with beginning teacher assistance programs as provided in state law.

160.1055. 1. Each local educational agency shall develop policies and procedures for such LEA to follow to accommodate and assist parents and teachers in the exercise of the rights described in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055.

2. Each LEA's governing board shall affirm the board's commitment to ensuring sufficient and effective accountability and transparency to parents in the LEA's jurisdiction by adopting policies that:

(1) Recognize and affirm the protected right of parents to guide the education of their minor child;

(2) Encourage communication between parents and the LEA relating to parental rights and parental concerns about their minor child's education and educational experience through the LEA's community engagement initiatives required under 162.058; and

(3) Collaborate with parents to identify ways in which parents can exercise parental rights and communicate such ways to parents in a clear, consistent manner that can be easily understood by all parents.

3. Each local educational agency shall notify parents in a timely manner if their child is involved in a safety incident in which a school employee is charged with a crime.

4. Each local educational agency shall provide prompt notification to parents of any serious disciplinary incidents involving their child and shall offer a meeting or conference to discuss the behavior and outline steps for correction and improvement.

5. (1) Each local educational agency shall adopt reasonable procedures for parents to follow when visiting their minor child during school hours.

(2) Each local educational agency shall adopt reasonable procedures for parents to follow:

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

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

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

(b) When such local educational agency is required to prohibit an individual from having any interaction with a minor child due to an order entered under any provision of state or federal law restricting or prohibiting such individual from interacting with such minor child or the LEA has otherwise prohibited the individual from accessing school property or events.

6. (1) Teachers, school administrators, parents, and students shall be fully informed of the rights conferred upon parents and teachers under sections 160.1052 to

37 **160.1055. Each LEA shall provide a physical or electronic copy of sections 160.1052 to**
38 **160.1055 to each parent, teacher, and student at the beginning of each school year.**

39 **(2) Each local educational agency shall post the rights listed in sections 160.1052**
40 **to 160.1055 on such LEA's website or provide a printed copy if no website exists.**

41 **7. (1) Each local educational agency shall adopt, enforce, publicly post, and**
42 **annually review a code of student conduct as described in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055.**

43 **(2) Such code of conduct shall promote safe, respectful, and orderly learning**
44 **environments by reinforcing teacher authority in maintaining classroom discipline and**
45 **enhancing parental involvement in student behavioral issues and shall set forth**
46 **expectations for behavior consistent with ethical responsibility, community standards,**
47 **and regard for school authority.**

48 **(3) Each local educational agency shall adopt such code of student conduct for**
49 **the 2027-28 school year and all subsequent school years.**

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

53 **8. The code of student conduct required under subsection 7 of this section shall:**

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

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

58 **(3) Include measures to address and correct disruptive behavior promptly,**
59 **ensuring that teachers have the necessary authority and support to remove students**
60 **from classrooms when warranted, in accordance with training provided by the LEA;**

61 **(4) Outline a system of graduated consequences for misconduct, balanced by**
62 **opportunities for students to develop personal resilience and reflect on their actions**
63 **through LEA-approved interventions;**

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

67 **(6) Clearly prohibit any policy or program that differentiates treatment of**
68 **students primarily on the basis of race alone, ensuring that all disciplinary measures are**
69 **applied equally and fairly to every student.**

70 **9. (1) A local educational agency may, at such LEA's discretion and with the**
71 **LEA's governing board's approval, incorporate evidence-based training for teachers**
72 **and counselors on strategies to guide students toward personal resilience.**

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

74 (a) Encouraging personal responsibility and self-management;

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

77 (c) Using school counselors or other qualified personnel to offer supportive
78 interventions that emphasize respect for self and others, problem solving, and
79 perseverance.

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

84 10. Each local educational agency shall ensure that teachers and staff are trained
85 in methods to maintain order, encourage compliance, foster civility, and encourage
86 personal responsibility.

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

91 12. Each LEA's governing board shall adopt such policies and procedures
92 required by this section for the 2027-28 school year and all subsequent school years.

93 13. No LEA shall establish policies that prevent a parent or teacher from
94 exercising the applicable rights listed in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 or any other
95 provision of law.

96 14. No provision of sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 shall be construed to supersede
97 any other federal or state law or any regulation or policy adopted by the state
98 department of elementary and secondary education or the state board of education.

99 15. No provision of sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 shall be construed to supersede
100 any LEA's order, ordinance, or policy relating to the discipline of students.

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