

**PARENT NOTIFICATION (I)**  
**YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE PARENT OF A CHILD**  
**IN CALIFORNIA’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

California state law governs the basic operation of public schools, and the Legislature regularly passes new laws affecting the quality and availability of education, as well as laws mandating that local school districts undertake new responsibilities. These laws often require that the school district adequately inform parents of the opportunities and protections to which they are entitled.

The following is a summary of state law provisions with which all parents should be familiar. In most cases, the laws have been summarized, and the precise code number has been provided should parents require more detailed information. “E.C.” stands for “Education Code,” which is the area of state law that affects education most directly.

**Notification of Rights:**

School boards must notify parents and guardians of their rights to service and programs offered by public schools. Parents must sign a notification form and return it to school acknowledging they have been informed of their rights.

**PUPIL RECORDS - E.C. 49063, 49069, 49076**

Federal and California law require that parents or guardians be notified of their right to inspect all school records of their child. The school principal should be contacted regarding parental access to records and district policies regarding challenges to records, costs for copies of records, and those records designated as directory information. A parent request to review pupil records will be granted within five days following the date of the request. Such review is to take place during regular school hours.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL DIRECTORY INFORMATION - E.C. 49073**

Directory information includes names of students, address, telephone number, and names/grades/schools of other children living in the home. Parents who do not wish to have this information available for school related uses, such as school "buzz books", Home and School Club newsletters, district reports, etc., should so notify the school or district office in writing within 30 days.

**ABSENCES FOR PERSONAL REASONS - E.C. 48205**

Pupils shall be excused from school for compulsory education purposes, including but not limited to, an appearance in court, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, or an employment conference, when the pupil's absence has been requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the Governing Board. Pupils absent from school due to the reasons listed herein shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests which can be reasonably provided.

**TEMPORARY DISABILITY - E.C. 48206.3**

Parents are advised that if a pupil has a temporary disability and is in a hospital or other residential health facility located outside the district, it is the parent's responsibility to notify the school district in which the hospital is located of the pupil's presence. Individualized instruction is available from the school district in which the hospital is located.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND IMMUNIZATION - E.C. 49403**

A licensed physician or a registered nurse may administer immunizations to a pupil whose parents have so consented in writing. A student shall be excluded who has not been immunized properly, or shown proof of exemption.

**ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATION - E.C. 49423**

A school nurse or other designated school personnel may assist a pupil who is required to take medication prescribed by a physician if the district receives 1) a written statement from a physician prescribing the method, amount and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken, and 2) a written request from the parent or guardian for district assistance.

**CONSENT TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATION - E.C. 49451**

A parent or guardian of a child enrolled in public school may file annually with the school principal a statement indicating that he/she will not consent to a physical examination of his/her child. The child will not be examined, but if there is good cause to believe the child is suffering from a contagious or infectious disease, he shall be sent home and not be allowed to return until school authorities are satisfied that such disease did not exist. In addition to standard first aid procedures, screenings are given for hearing, vision, and scoliosis during the school year.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS: ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT – E.C. 49452.8**

Proof of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist must be presented no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> of the school year a pupil is enrolled in Kindergarten or while enrolled in first grade in a public school.

**MEDICAL OR HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR PUPILS - E.C. 49472**

Medical or hospital services for pupils injured at school or school sponsored events or while being transported to same may be covered by insurance provided at district or parent expense. In this district, such insurance is available at parental expense.

**CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL SERVICES - E. C. 46010.1**

School authorities may excuse any seventh or eighth grade pupil from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian.

**SEX EDUCATION COURSES - E.C. 51550 AND VENEREAL DISEASE EDUCATION - E.C. 51820**

No school district may require pupils to attend any classes in which human reproductive organs or their functions, processes or diseases are described, illustrated or discussed. The parent or guardian of any child so enrolled must be notified in writing of the class and be given the opportunity to request, in writing, that his/her child not attend. The parent or guardian will also be notified in writing of an opportunity to inspect any written or audiovisual materials to be used.

**EXCUSE FROM HEALTH INSTRUCTION AND FAMILY LIFE INSTRUCTION DUE TO RELIGIOUS BELIEFS - E.C. 51240**

Whenever any part of the instruction in health, family life education, and sex education conflicts with the religious training and beliefs of the parent or guardian of any pupil, the pupil may be excused from the conflicting part of the training upon written request of the parent or guardian.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION - E.C. 56030, et. seq.**

Every individual with exceptional needs shall be entitled to specially designed instruction and related services at no cost to the parent. Please contact your child's school or the Director of Special Education regarding pupil eligibility and placement procedures.

**NUTRITION - FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS - E.C. 49500, et. seq.**

Certain pupils are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches at school. Information concerning eligibility requirements is attached.

**DISCIPLINE - E.C. 35291, 48900.1**

District policies and procedures regarding student discipline are available at each school office or at the district office. In addition, parents will be notified in writing of individual school rules and disciplinary procedures. Parents may be required to attend the classroom of their suspended student for a portion of the school day.

**ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS - E.C. 85800**

California state law permits school districts to provide for alternative schools, defined as school or separate class groups within a school district. Information concerning alternative schools is available from the county superintendent of schools, or the administrative office of this district.

**UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES - CCR T5 Section 4600-4671**

State regulations require that the district investigate and seek to resolve any complaints alleging violation of federal or state laws or regulations, including allegations of unlawful discrimination in programs and activities receiving state funds at the local level. Parents/guardians, advisory committees, students, and other interested parties may file a written complaint. For specific information on filing procedures, time lines, review procedures, available civil law remedies, and appeal procedures contact the administrative office of this district.

**PARENTAL LIABILITY - E.C. 48904**

The parent or guardian of any minor whose willful misconduct results in injury to any pupil, employee or volunteer, or damage to district property or the personal property of any school employee, shall be liable for all damages so caused by the minor. The liability of the parent or guardian shall not exceed \$10,000, adjusted for inflation.

**REFUSAL TO HARM OR DESTROY ANIMALS - E.C. 32255**

California law grants students who have a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals the right to refrain from participation in instruction that involves such activities.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT - E.C. 212.5**

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests or sexual favors, and other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature. The principal or designee shall take appropriate actions to enforce the district's sexual harassment policy.

**NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES - E.C. 260**

The Governing Board is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability or any other unlawful consideration. The Board shall promote programs that ensure that discriminatory practices are eliminated in all district activities.

District programs and facilities, viewed in their entirety, shall be readily accessible to individuals with handicaps. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that interested persons, including those with impaired vision and hearing, can obtain information about the programs, facilities and activities available to them.

**TITLE I – TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS - Section III, PL. 107-110**

Under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), local educational agencies that receive Title I funds, parents have the right to request information on the qualifications of their child’s teacher, as well as any paraprofessionals who may provide services to their child.

**CURRICULUM MATERIALS - E.C. 49063, 49091.14**

Parents have the right to examine the curriculum materials of the class or classes in which their child is involved. A list of current textbooks is available on the district website. Materials are available for review at each school and the district office.

**OBJECTION TO CERTAIN TESTS, EXAMS, QUESTIONNAIRES, OR SURVEYS – E.C. 51513, 51938 and NCLB 20 U.S.C. §1232h(b)**

Before the school district can administer a test, questionnaire, survey or examination to the child containing questions about the student’s or the parents’ personal beliefs, beliefs or practices in sex or attitudes regarding sex, family life, morality or religion, school districts must first obtain written parental permission. NCLB requires notification in writing whenever the following types of information are sought by way of a test, questionnaire, survey or exam about a parent or student:

- Political affiliations or beliefs
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior
- Mental or psychological problems
- Identity of the parent or student’s lawyer, physician, or minister (or other relationships that are legally recognized as being privileged)
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student or parent has close family relationships
- Income (except as required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program)

Parents have the right to request that such test, questionnaire, survey or examination not be administered to their child. Once school districts have notified parents that these categories of information are being sought, parents then have the affirmative duty to notify the school district that they do not want this information released. Prior to administering anonymous and voluntary surveys regarding health risks and behaviors to students in grades 7 and 8, the district shall provide parents/guardians with written notice that the survey is to be administered.

**AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD (SARC) - E.C. 35256**

School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) shall be available in hard copy, and on the Internet, if applicable, by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**IMPORTANT:**

Please note that by signing your student’s Emergency Card from our student database you are also acknowledging that you have received the Annual Parent Notification of your legal rights and responsibilities.