

SENATE BILL No. 496

By Committee on Education

2-10

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to schools and school districts;
2 establishing the parents' bill of rights.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) The provisions of this section shall be known and may
6 be cited as the parents' bill of rights.

7 (b) The legislature finds that a quality education is central to a child's
8 development and long-term success in life and that a parent has a right to
9 direct the upbringing, education and care of the parent's child. The
10 legislature further finds that a parent shall have the right to play a central
11 role in a child's education, to obtain critical information about what is
12 being taught or provided in the classroom and to take action when a parent
13 feels that the quality or content of a child's education does not align with
14 the values and expectations the parent expects and deserves.

15 (c) Every parent of a child in this state shall have a right to direct the
16 upbringing, education, care and mental health of the parent's child. The
17 following parental rights are reserved to each parent of a child in this state:

- 18 (1) The right to direct the education and care of such child;
- 19 (2) the right to direct the upbringing and the moral or religious
20 training of such child;
- 21 (3) the right to request, access and inspect all written and electronic
22 records maintained by a school relating to such child;
- 23 (4) the right to be informed of and inspect the curriculum,
24 instructional materials and any other materials that are made available or
25 taught to such child in the child's school;
- 26 (5) the right to attend publicly designated meetings of the local school
27 board and the right to question and address school officials during
28 designated public comment periods or through letters, electronic
29 communications or in-person meetings;
- 30 (6) the right to make healthcare and medical decisions for such child,
31 including the right to make decisions regarding vaccinations and
32 immunizations;
- 33 (7) the right to expect that such child, and each teacher and educator
34 of such child, shall not be compelled to affirm, believe, profess or adhere
35 to any idea that violates the civil rights act of 1964;
- 36 (8) the right to expect that no course of instruction or unit of study

1 shall direct or otherwise compel the child to personally affirm, adopt or
2 adhere to any idea that violates the civil rights act of 1964;

3 (9) the right to expect that the child's school shall not contract for
4 teacher professional development with providers that promote racially
5 essentialist doctrines or practices that have been held to violate the civil
6 rights act of 1964;

7 (10) the right to expect that each teacher and educator of such child
8 will endeavor to present facts without distortion, bias or personal
9 prejudice;

10 (11) the right to expect that each teacher and educator of such child
11 shall work to eliminate coercion that forces teachers and educators to
12 support actions and ideologies that violate individual professional
13 integrity; and

14 (12) the right to assert any other inalienable or constitutional right
15 that is reserved to the parent and the child pursuant to state or federal law.

16 (d) The board of education of each school district shall develop and
17 adopt policies to guarantee a parent's right to be involved in a child's
18 education. Such policies shall be developed in consultation with parents,
19 teachers and school administrators and shall include policies and
20 procedures for a parent to:

21 (1) Be informed of and have the ability to inspect any materials,
22 activities, curriculum, lessons, syllabi, surveys, tests, questionnaires,
23 examinations, books, magazines, handouts, professional development and
24 training materials and any other materials or activities that are provided to
25 the parent's child;

26 (2) inspect and review any educational or health records maintained
27 by the school that pertain to the parent's child;

28 (3) object to any learning material or activity on the basis that such
29 material or activity harms the child or impairs the parent's firmly held
30 beliefs, values or principles and withdraw such child from the activity,
31 class or program in which the material is used; and

32 (4) challenge the material or educational benefit of any book,
33 magazine or any other material available to students in the school library
34 such that a successful challenge results in the removal of the book,
35 magazine or material from the school.

36 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
37 publication in the statute book.