

International Academy of Columbus

PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS POLICY

Adopted 3/26/2026

1. Purpose

This policy affirms the rights of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing, education, and health care of their children enrolled in the school. The school is committed to transparency, timely communication, and full compliance with the requirements of the Ohio Parents Bill of Rights as outlined in House Bill 8.

2. Definitions

- **Parent/Guardian** — A natural parent, adoptive parent, or legal guardian of a student.
- **Instructional Materials** — Any curriculum, textbooks, digital content, lesson plans, surveys, or supplemental materials used for student instruction.
- **Health Services** — Any physical, mental, or behavioral health services provided or facilitated by the school.
- **Student Well-Being Information** — Information related to a student's physical, emotional, or mental health, including changes in well-being or requests for accommodations.

3. Parental Rights

Parents/guardians have the right to:

- Access instructional materials used in their child's classroom, including textbooks, digital resources, lesson plans, and teacher-created materials.
- Receive notification of any change in their child's physical, mental, or emotional health or well-being that is known to the school and may require parental involvement.
- Review all surveys, questionnaires, or assessments prior to student participation, especially those addressing personal beliefs, family matters, mental health, or sexuality.
- Opt their child out of any survey, instruction, or activity involving sensitive or protected topics as permitted by law.
- Access student records, including academic, disciplinary, health, and counseling records, in accordance with FERPA.
- Be informed of all health services offered to their child and to decline or consent to such services unless otherwise required by law.
- Receive timely communication regarding incidents affecting their child's safety or well-being.

4. School Responsibilities

The school shall:

- Maintain transparency in curriculum, instructional materials, and classroom activities.
- Provide parents with access to instructional materials upon request within a reasonable timeframe.
- Notify parents within 24 hours when the school becomes aware of a significant change in a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, unless prohibited by law.
- Obtain parental consent before administering any mental-health screening, well-being survey, or health service not required by law.
- Provide parents with advance notice of any instruction or activity involving sexual content, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other sensitive topics.
- Maintain a publicly accessible list of instructional materials and curriculum resources used in each grade level.
- Ensure that all staff receive annual training on parental rights and communication requirements under this policy.

5. Surveys and Sensitive Topics

Before a student takes part in any survey or activity addressing personal beliefs, mental health, family relationships, sexual attitudes, or other sensitive matters, the school shall:

- Provide parents with the full text of the survey or activity.
- Provide written notice at least 14 days in advance.
- Allow parents to opt out without penalty to the student.
- Ensure no student is required to disclose information protected by state or federal law.

6. Student Well-Being and Health Notifications

When a staff member becomes aware of a concern related to a student:

- mental or emotional health,
- physical health,
- request for accommodations related to gender identity or expression,
- significant behavioral change, or
- safety concern,

The staff must document the concern and notify the School Administrator. The Administrator shall notify the parent/guardian as soon as practical, unless doing so is prohibited by law or would endanger the student.

7. Instructional Transparency

The school shall make available:

- Course syllabi
- Textbooks and reading lists
- Digital instructional materials
- Teacher-created lesson plans
- Supplemental resources
- Professional development materials used to train staff on sensitive topics

Materials may be provided through a parent portal, printed copies, or on-site review.

8. Complaints and Resolution

Parents may submit concerns or complaints regarding compliance with this policy through the following process:

1. Submit a written complaint to the School Administrator.
2. Administrator responds in writing within 10 school days.
3. If unresolved, parents may appeal to the School's Governing Authority.
4. The Governing Authority shall issue a written decision within 30 days.

The school shall not retaliate against any parent or student for raising concerns.

9. Staff Responsibilities

All employees must:

- Follow all notification requirements.
- Maintain accurate documentation of parent communications.
- Provide instructional materials upon request.
- Refrain from withholding information from parents regarding their child's well-being unless required by law.
- Participate in annual training on this policy.

Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

10. Annual Review

The Governing Authority shall review this policy annually to ensure compliance with changes in state law, including updates to House Bill 8 or related statutes.