

Washington County School District

Parental Rights in Education

Utah Code 53A-15-1401 through 1403

The following outlines the Parental Rights in Education in the Washington County School District as prescribed by State law. The Washington County School District recognizes that the parent or guardian is the primary person responsible for the education of their student, and the school is in a secondary and supportive role to the parent or guardian.

When responding to these rights, the term "reasonably accommodate" means a school shall make its best effort to enable a parent or guardian to exercise the rights listed below

- (a) without substantial impact to staff and resources, including employee working conditions, safety and supervision on school premises and for school activities, and the efficient allocation of expenditures; and
- (b) while balancing
 - (i) the parental rights of parents or guardians;
 - (ii) the educational needs of other students;
 - (iii) the academic and behavioral impacts to a classroom;
 - (iv) a teacher's workload; and
 - (v) the assurance of the safe and efficient operation of a school.

In addition, each accommodation shall be considered on an individual basis and no student shall be considered to a greater or lesser degree than any other student. The parental rights specified in this section do not include all the rights or accommodations that may be available to a student's parent or guardian as a user of the public education system.

The Washington County School District...

1. Shall reasonably accommodate a parent's or guardian's written request to retain a student in kindergarten through grade 8 on grade level based on the student's academic ability or the student's social, emotional, or physical maturity.
2. Shall reasonably accommodate a parent's or guardian's initial selection of a teacher or request for a change of teacher.
3. Shall reasonably accommodate the request of a student's parent or guardian to visit and observe any class the student attends.
4. Shall record an excused absence for a scheduled family event or a scheduled proactive visit to a health care provider if:
 - (a) the parent or guardian submits a written statement at least one school day before the scheduled absence; and
 - (b) the student agrees to make up course work for school days missed for the scheduled absence.
5. Shall reasonably accommodate a parent's or guardian's written request to place a student in a specialized class, a specialized program, or an advanced course.
 - (a) The school district shall consider multiple academic data points when making this determination.

6. Shall allow a student to earn course credit towards high school graduation without completing a course in school by:
 - (a) testing out of the course; or
 - (b) demonstrating competency in course standards.
7. Shall reasonably accommodate a parent's or guardian's request to meet with a teacher at a mutually agreeable time if the parent or guardian is unable to attend a regularly scheduled parent teacher conference.
8. At the written request of a student's parent or guardian, shall excuse a student from taking an assessment that:
 - (a) is federally mandated;
 - (b) is mandated by the state; or
 - (c) requires the use of:
 - (i) a state assessment system; or
 - (ii) software that is provided or paid for by the state.
9. Shall provide for:
 - (a) the distribution of a copy of a school's discipline and conduct policy; and
 - (b) a parent's or guardian's signature acknowledging receipt of the school's discipline and conduct policy.
10. Shall notify a parent or guardian of a student's violation of a school's discipline and conduct policy and allow a parent or guardian to respond to the notice.

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