

Resolution in Support of a Parental Bill of Rights in Gillespie County

WHEREAS, the family is the foundational unit of a free society, with parents holding primary responsibility for their children's education and upbringing; and

WHEREAS, the Gillespie County Republican Party affirms that parental rights are inherent, inalienable, and protected under the U.S. Constitution, Texas Constitution, and Texas Education Code Chapter 26; and

WHEREAS, the Gillespie County Republican Party defends liberty and parents' God-given rights to direct their children's education and well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gillespie County Republican Party hereby calls for the adoption of a Parental Bill of Rights within Gillespie County, to include, but not be limited to, the following principles:

1. **Right to Transparency:** Parents shall have full access to curricula, instructional materials, library books, and extracurricular programs, with advance notification of controversial or sensitive topics (e.g., sexual orientation, gender identity, reproductive health, political ideologies, racial theories, or religious doctrines not tied to academic study of history or literature). This is supported by Texas Education Code Section 26.006, which grants parents the right to review materials and mandates annual meetings with school personnel. Parents shall also be notified at the Superintendent level of harmful acts, including the discovery of weapons or drugs on campus, with a detailed outline of administrative actions to protect students. In cases of serious allegations of sexual or physical threats or abuse—such as incidents reported in the Fredericksburg Independent School District without prior disclosure—parents shall be promptly informed to ensure transparency and accountability.
2. **Right to Informed Consent:** School officials shall obtain written parental consent before subjecting students to surveys, screenings, discussions, or instruction involving personal beliefs, sexual education, gender identity, or mental health interventions. Schools must use student pronouns and gender/sex assigned at birth and parents must be immediately informed if a student requests otherwise. This is upheld by Texas Education Code Section 26.009, which requires consent for human sexuality instruction or psychological examinations, ensuring parents retain control over sensitive interventions.
3. **Right to Notification:** Parents shall be promptly informed of incidents affecting their child's physical safety, emotional well-being, or academic performance, as well as any changes to school policies. This aligns with Texas Education Code Section 26.008, which mandates timely notification of significant events, such as disciplinary actions or academic struggles, reinforcing parental oversight.
4. **Right to Participation:** Parents shall have the opportunity to review and provide input on school budgets, policies, and educational initiatives, including textbook and material selection, through open meetings and accessible channels. This is supported by Texas Education Code Sections 26.006(a) and 26.001(c), which recognize parents as partners in shaping educational policy.
5. **Right to Opt-IN:** Parents shall have informed consent and the authority to exempt their children from instruction, activities, or events conflicting with family values, beliefs, or religious convictions, without penalty. This is protected by Texas Education Code Section 26.010, which allows temporary removal from conflicting activities with a written statement, provided an alternative assignment is completed.
6. **Right to Privacy:** Schools shall not collect, share, or store personal data beyond what is necessary for educational purposes, and parents shall have access to such records upon request. This is enshrined in Texas Education Code Section 26.004, which grants access to records, while Texas Business and Commerce Code Section 521.053 mandates immediate notification of data breaches affecting student information.
7. **Right to Representation:** Parents shall have a meaningful voice in school governance, including electing or appointing school board trustees who reflect community values. This is supported by Texas Education Code Section 11.051, which establishes elected boards, and Texas Constitution Article XVI, Section 1, which requires trustees to uphold constitutional oaths and act in students' best interests per Texas Education Code Section 11.1512.
8. **Right to Timely Resolution:** Grievances submitted by parents shall be addressed promptly and within 90 days, avoiding unnecessary delays, to respect the urgency of parental involvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gillespie County Republican Party urges all school districts in Gillespie County, including school boards, administrators, and elected officials, to adopt and implement this Parental Bill of Rights, ensuring respect for parents' fundamental role as enshrined in state and federal law; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed to the Fredericksburg Standard, The Harper Herald, and other local media outlets serving Gillespie County; all school districts within Gillespie County, including the Fredericksburg Independent School District Superintendent and school board trustees, the Harper Independent School District Superintendent and school board trustees, and the Doss Consolidated Common School District Superintendent and school board trustees (if applicable); the Gillespie County Commissioners Court; the Gillespie County Sheriff's Office and Fredericksburg Police Department as a stakeholder in school safety; and our representatives in the Texas Legislature, including the State Senator and State Representative for Gillespie County, encouraging their support and action to codify these rights into local policy and state law.