A Resolution in Support of Parental Rights

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[[1]](#footnote-1) Public Schools

A resolution to affirm the commitment of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board to the fundamental rights of parents to direct the education of their children.

WHEREAS, parents are in the best position to know their own child’s needs and circumstances, and therefore, should maintain authority over all decisions that could impact the health and well-being of their children; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental right of parents over the upbringing of their children has been unequivocally established in the United States;[[2]](#footnote-2) and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board recognizes Okla. Stat. tit. 25, § 2001—2005, titled “The Parents’ Bill of Rights,” which emphatically declares in § 2001.B. that “[t]his state, any political subdivision of this state or any other governmental entity shall not infringe on the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care and mental health of their children without demonstrating that the compelling governmental interest as applied to the child involved is of the highest order, is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by a less restrictive means.”; and further declares in § 2002.A. that “[a]ll parental rights are reserved to a parent of a minor child without obstruction or interference from this state, any political subdivision of this state, any other governmental entity or any other institution, including, but not limited to … [t]he right to direct the education of the minor child;” and further declares in § 2002.C. that “[a]ny attempt to encourage or coerce a minor child to withhold information from the child’s parent shall be grounds for discipline of an employee of this state, any political subdivision of this state or any other governmental entity, except for law enforcement personnel.”; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board recognizes its duty under Okla. Stat. tit. 25, § 2003.A. to “develop and adopt a policy to promote the involvement of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the schools within the school district” that gives parents transparency in their children’s education, and which allows parents to opt their children out of certain classes and programs; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board believes that all academic success begins by embracing these fundamental parental rights in our educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that parents’ voices are respected and incorporated into the development of academic curricula to ensure that their children are receiving an appropriate education; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board believes that education must focus on academic subjects, and, without exception, should not include personal bias, personal political opinion, or indoctrination; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board recognizes its duties under Oklahoma law, including Okla. Stat. tit. 25, § 2003.A., and believes that any parent has the right to see and evaluate all surveys, data collection, and psychological profiling before they are administered to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ students and that parents have the right to ‘opt out’ of any or all such testing, survey participation, and/or data collection in accordance with Oklahoma law; and[[3]](#footnote-3)

WHEREAS, as a governmental entity in the State of Oklahoma, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board must adhere to Oklahoma law, including Okla. Stat. tit. 25, § 2001—2005, titled “The Parents’ Bill of Rights,” in all of its practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board affirms our commitment to the fundamental rights of parents to direct the education of their children, including the right to play a central role in what it is their children are learning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board, Administration, and employees will uphold the traditional partnership between teachers, students, and parents by directly communicating with and involving parents in the education of their children.

1. Insert name of City/County School Board, here and all blanks following. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *See, e.g., Meyer v. Nebraska,* 262 U.S. 390 (1923); *Pierce v. Society of Sisters,* 268 U.S. 510 (1925); *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972); *Parham v. J.R.,* 442 U.S. 584 (1979);and *Troxel v. Granville,* 530 U.S. 57 (2000). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Note that this paragraph may need to be re-worded to account for any additional state laws regarding curriculum opt-out. Recommend talking to school district counsel to determine best wording. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)