

**PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION POLICY 639**

The Mountain Home School District No. 193 Board of Trustees recognizes the fundamental rights and responsibilities of parents as primary stakeholders to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees adopts this policy to promote the involvement of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the District's schools.

**PARENTAL OBJECTIONS TO LEARNING MATERIALS OR ACTIVITIES:**

Parents, guardians, and students are expected to abide by the District's policies, practices, and procedures governing the operation of the District's schools. However, a student's parents or guardians have the right to reasonable academic accommodation from their child's school. For the purposes of this policy only, "reasonable accommodation" means the school shall make its best effort to enable a parent or guardian to exercise their rights without substantial impact to staff and resources, including employee working conditions, safety and supervision on school premises for school activities, and the efficient allocation of expenditures, while balancing the parental rights of parents and guardians, the educational needs of other students, the academic and behavioral impacts to a classroom, a teacher's workload, and the assurance of the safe and efficient operations of the school.

Parents/guardians who have an objection to their child's participation in the District's adopted curriculum or the District's implementation of its policies, practices, and procedures, and who would like to request reasonable accommodation should first address such request with their child's teacher. If a reasonable accommodation cannot be reached, parents/guardians should then address such request with building administration.

Parents/guardians who object to their child's participation in the District's adopted curriculum or the District's implementation of its policies, practices, and procedures on the basis that it harms the child or impairs the parents'/guardians' firmly held beliefs, values, or principles, may withdraw their child from the class, activity, or program at issue.

Parents/guardians who withdraw their child from the district-provided class, activity, or program are responsible for identification and provision of alternative educational activities for their child during any time the child is not participating in the district-provided activity, at no cost to the District.

The final decision of the selected alternative educational activity will be first at the discretion of the child's teacher or building principal, and if necessary, the District, with input from the parents/guardians, considering requirements for the child's advancement and graduation and considering the reasonable accommodation provisions set forth herein.

The District is not responsible for the selection, adoption, and removal of curricular material for dual credit courses offered by an institution of higher education. Academic accommodations and

excusal of students from objectionable material is at the sole discretion of the course provider. Parents/guardians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with dual credit course instructional materials prior to student enrollment in such courses.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

School staff are responsible for encouraging students to discuss issues related to the student’s well-being with the student’s parents/guardians and, if necessary, to facilitate discussion of the issues with the parents/guardians. Consistent with Idaho law and District policy, parents/guardians will be notified by their child’s school of known changes in the student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring or that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a student to withhold from parents/guardians such information. The district will not adopt procedures, policies, or student support forms that prohibit school personnel from notifying parents/guardians about a student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring or that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a student to withhold from parents/guardians such information. However, the district may withhold such information from parents/guardians if ordered to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**PARENTAL INFORMATION ON COURSE OF STUDY AND LEARNING MATERIALS**

Parents/guardians are entitled to review all learning materials, instructional materials, and other teaching aids used in their student’s classroom. Teachers are encouraged to notify parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year how to access classroom learning materials. Parents/guardians may contact their student’s teacher or school administration for access to learning materials.

**STUDENT CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**

Consistent with Idaho law and district policy, school personnel will notify a student’s parents/guardians if a student has been or may be questioned by a school resource officer or other law enforcement official, unless the child is a victim or suspected victim of physical child abuse.

**STUDENT SURVEYS**

Prior to the administration of any noncurricular-related student survey, well-being questionnaire, or health screening to any student, the school personnel administering such survey, questionnaire or screening must first obtain consent from the superintendent or designee. If the content of any such survey, questionnaire or screening regards an individual student’s sexuality, sex, religion, personal political beliefs, mental or psychological problems, personal family information, or individual or family financial information, school personnel shall provide the survey, questionnaire, or screening form to the student’s parents/guardians in advance and obtain *written* permission from the parents/guardians for the student’s participation.

**SCHOOL VISITATION BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

Parents/guardians shall have reasonable access to observe all school activities during school hours at the school in which their child is enrolled unless the parent/guardian is otherwise legally prohibited from accessing the child’s school. Observations of individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted with the building principal’s and teacher’s prior approval. The building principal reserves the right to limit or refuse visitations by parents/guardians if their occurrence, duration, frequency, or conduct on campus interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment. Additionally, nothing in this policy shall prevent the reasonable denial of entry due to emergency or safety drills, situations outlined in school safety plans, an emergency lockdown, periods of statewide testing, school officials’ enforcement of school governance provisions set forth in Idaho Code §33-512 or other specific situations enumerated by the school.

**REQUIREMENTS NOT WAIVED**

Withdrawing a child from an activity, class, or program required for advancement or graduation under board or state approved curricula does not waive requirements and may result in adverse consequences to the child’s education, including but not limited to, ineligibility to advance to the next grade level, ineligibility to enroll in other classes, and/or denial of diplomas or other certificates.

**ANNUAL NOTICE**

The District shall annually notify parents and guardians of children enrolled in the District’s schools of the parent’s or guardian’s rights as specified above through notification in school handbooks or other reasonable methods. In addition, at the start of each school year, the District shall notify parents/guardians of health services offered or made available through the school or by private organizations, including preventative health and wellness services, screenings, medication administration, first aid and emergency care, and appropriate management of all health conditions. The notice will include a statement that all such health services will be provided only with parental consent and that such parental consent does not waive parents/guardians’ right to access their children’s educational or associated health records or to be notified about their children’s health status or monitoring.

Each school building of the Mountain Home School District will notify parents and guardians of their rights as specified above through notification on school building websites, and by referencing a statement in the Student Handbooks.

The District’s annual notification to parents and guardians of children enrolled in the District’s schools of the parent’s or guardian’s rights as specified above can be found via all the District school buildings’ websites and/or student handbooks.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN COMPLAINTS**

Parents/guardians who believe their rights, as enumerated in this policy, have been violated may file a complaint utilizing the District’s Patron Complaint Policy.



**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

- Idaho Code Sections
- I.C. § 32-1213 Interference with Fundamental Parental Rights Restricted
- I.C. § 32-1012 Parental Right to Direct the Education of Children
- I.C. § 32-1010 Intent of the Legislature – Parental Rights
- I.C. § 33-6001 Parental Rights
- I.C. § 33-6002 Annual Notice of Parental Rights
- Idaho Constitution Article IX
- IDAPA 08, Titles 01, 02, 03, and 04

**ADOPTED:** June 20, 2017

Revised: June 21, 2022

Revised: June 18, 2024