

A Resolution in Support of Parental Rights

_____ 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 and the natural fundamental right of parents to determine and direct the care, teaching, and education of their children has always been a cornerstone declaration in Georgia law;³ and

WHEREAS the _____ School Board recognizes Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-786, entitled the “Parents’ Bill of Rights,” which emphatically states in paragraph (d) that “[n]o state or local government entity, governing body, or any officer, employee, or agent thereof may infringe on the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing and education of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by less restrictive means.”, 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 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, and that Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-786 establishes numerous rights for parents in this regard; and⁴

WHEREAS, as a governmental entity in the State of Georgia, the _____ School Board must adhere to Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-786 in all of its practices;

¹ Insert name of City/County School Board, here and all blanks following.

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), and *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000).

³ See, e.g., *Patten v. Ardis*, 816 S.E.2d 633, 636 (Ga. 2018); *Nix v. Dept. of Human Resources*, 225 S.E.2d 306, 307 (Ga. 1976); *Clark v. Wade*, 544 S.E.2d 99, 104 (Ga. 2001); *In the Interest of M. F.*, 780 S.E.2d 291, 297 (Ga. 2015).

⁴ Note that this paragraph may need to be re-worded to account for state law regarding curriculum opt-out. Recommend talking to school district counsel to determine best wording.

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.