

## **GUIDE TO EDUCATIONAL PARENTAL RIGHTS**

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The rights that parents have regarding their children's education are much more detailed than what is presented in this handout. If you have questions, contact your school principal and ask to receive a copy of the parent's rights handbook. All schools should have something available to give you. Don't hesitate to ask questions about things you don't understand.

### **School Records**

- ❖ You have the right to look at your children's records. You may need to provide notice to the school through a written request, so plan ahead if there is something specific you would like to see in the file.
- ❖ You have the right to get copies of your child's records. The school may charge a fee for copying.
- ❖ You have the right to expect information about your children and your family be kept confidential. This means that only people working with your children should have access to sensitive material in the file. Records should be kept in a safe place (usually a locked file cabinet).
- ❖ You have the right to ask information regarding your family be removed from your children's school file, if you feel it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school refuses to remove the information, a hearing will be conducted to determine whether the records will be changed or not.
- ❖ If you don't agree with something in your child's file and the hearing results are that the information must remain, you have the right to write a letter saying you do not agree with the information, and that letter will be placed in your child's file.

### **General School Meetings**

- ❖ You must be provided advance notice of upcoming meetings in order to ensure your attendance.
- ❖ You have the right to ask for an interpreter. The school can provide one for you, or you can bring someone you feel comfortable with to translate for you.
- ❖ If a meeting has been set up for a time that you cannot attend, you have a right to ask to have it rescheduled. Flexibility is needed in these cases, as teachers are also needed in class with the other students. Meetings are usually held before or after school, but can occasionally be held during the lunch hour if needed.

# PIRC Pages

## **If You Have Concerns Regarding Your Child's Education**

- ❖ You have a right to talk to your child's teacher about your concerns.
- ❖ You have a right to take your concerns to the principal if you and the teacher cannot come to an agreement.
- ❖ You have the right to ask that a meeting be held to discuss the problem. All staff members who are involved with your child (other teachers, counselor, school psychologist, teacher aide, occupational or speech therapist, etc.) should be invited to attend.
- ❖ You have the right to have a parent advocate at the meeting. This person can be anyone who has knowledge of your child and/or your concerns. It doesn't need to be a professional or lawyer.

## **Taking Your Child Out of School**

- ❖ You have the right to check your child out of school for doctor's appointments, illness, etc.
- ❖ You have the right to ask your child's teacher for homework if your child will be out of school for a longer period of time. You may have to pick up the work or another child in class may be able to bring it to you.
- ❖ You have the right to temporarily remove your child from a classroom activity that conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs, if you provide the school with a written statement. You do not have the right to remove your child to avoid a test or prevent your child from taking a particular subject.