

\*Visit our [equipping parents](#) page for a vast library of resources for parents | teachers on K-12 education.



## PARENTAL RIGHTS

- Learn [your rights](#) as a parent.
- Check your state's parental rights laws [here](#).
- Education on Federal Privacy Laws: [FERPA](#) & [PPRA](#)



## STANDARDS VS. CURRICULUM

- Standards are defined by the state and dictate **WHAT** students should be learning in the public school system.
- Curriculum is knowledge and skills students are expected to learn as defined by state standards; the books, materials, videos, presentations, and readings used in a course; and the tests, assessments, and other methods used to evaluate student learning.
- If the curriculum does not map to state standards, you should **ALWAYS**, in writing, ask the teacher **WHY** it is being taught. Learn more [here](#).



## TRANSPARENCY

- [FOIA laws](#) empower parents with a tool to keep school districts transparent and hold them accountable.
- If parents are not getting answers to their questions, FOIA is a simple process and upheld by laws in every state.
- [Sunshine laws](#) promote transparency by requiring certain proceedings of government agencies to be open or available to the public.



## SCIENCE OF LEARNING

- The Science of Learning is a growing body of research from cognitive science, neuroscience, and psychology that explains how children learn best. Evidence-based instruction helps students build strong knowledge, improve memory retention, strengthen reading and math skills, and achieve better long-term academic outcomes. When parents understand [how learning works](#), they are better equipped to support effective instruction and advocate for proven practices in their child's classroom.



## OPT OUT FORMS

- Depending on your [state](#), you may be able to opt out of certain instruction, testing and invasive surveys that are often given at the start of the school year. Learn more [here](#).



## LITERACY & BOOKS

- Freedom in Ed's [Recommended Reading List](#) by grade
- Freedom in Education has partnered with [RatedBooks.org](#) to educate parents and communities nationwide. Search a vast database of reading material, and review detailed reports on each book on how it acquired its rating.



## APPEALING CURRICULUM MATERIAL

- Visit your school system's website to locate the policies & procedures established by your school board, where you will search for a "Book Appeal Process" or "controversial material appeal" policy.
- Educate yourself on the [appeal process](#) and learn the steps to identify inappropriate content in your local district and take effective action to challenge.



## CAMPUS AND DIGITAL SAFETY

- Read the school's Student Handbook policies on Discipline & Safety
- Does your school have a threat reporting hotline?
- Update your student's emergency contacts with the school.
- As new technologies emerge and online spaces evolve, educate yourself with the knowledge needed to keep students safe in the digital world [here](#).



## COMMUNICATION

- [Effective communication](#) between parents and schools is vital to the educational success and well-being of children.
- Follow the recommended chain of command and always document communication in writing.



## SHARE YOUR STORY

- Stories have the power to illuminate blind spots, encourage courage, and spark meaningful change. If you've experienced challenges or victories in your child's path to graduation, we want to hear from you!
- [Share your story](#) with Freedom in Education and help inspire others to stand up, speak out, and make a difference in their schools and communities.

### DISCLAIMER

Nothing implied or stated here in this toolkit should be construed to be legal or professional advice. It is recommended that you seek the help of a qualified attorney if needed on matters pertaining to rights as a student, parent, guardian, or caregiver.



We hope these resources will be a catalyst to educating and engaging parents. We continually update our website so parents can access the most up-to-date information.

## STUDENT PORTAL LOGIN

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## → MUST DO LIST

- ☐ READ STUDENT HANDBOOK/CODE OF CONDUCT-DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES
- ☐ REVIEW SYLLABUS & CURRICULUM FOR EACH CLASS
- ☐ REVIEW ELA BOOK LIST FOR THE YEAR  
(Request alternative options if necessary.)
- ☐ SUBMIT OPT OUT FORMS
- ☐ STORE IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES/DEADLINES IN CALENDAR
- ☐ STORE TEACHER & SCHOOL CONTACTS IN PHONE
- ☐ JOIN PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

## → STAY CONNECTED

*Follow us!*

FACEBOOK

X



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR  
NEWSLETTER



*Contact us!*

[info@freedomined.org](mailto:info@freedomined.org)

## → TEACHER CONTACTS

## → FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST

## → SCHOOL NURSE

## → PRINCIPAL

## → SCHOOL BOARD CONTACT

## → SCHOOL SAFETY HOTLINE

## → TRANSPORTATION CONTACT

THE MOST EFFECTIVE FORCE OF BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE IN EDUCATION IS WELL-INFORMED AND EQUIPPED PARENTS.