

BRIDGES PREPARATORY ACADEMY

PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS POLICY

The Board of Directors ("the Board") has adopted the following policy to promote parental involvement at the School.

Definitions:

"Age-appropriate" and "developmentally appropriate" content refers to activities or items that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group.

"Sexuality content" means any oral or written instruction, presentation, image, or description of sexual concepts or gender ideology provided in a classroom setting. Not to include any of the following:

- (a) Instruction or presentations in sexually transmitted infection education, child sexual abuse prevention, and sexual violence prevention education provided under division (A)(5) of section 3313.60 or section 3314.0310 or 3326.091 of the Revised Code;
- (b) Instruction or presentations in sexually transmitted infection education emphasizing abstinence provided under section 3313.6011 of the Revised Code;
- (c) Incidental references to sexual concepts or gender ideology occurring outside of formal instruction or presentations on such topics, including references made during class participation and in schoolwork.

"Student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being" includes, at a minimum, any of the following:

- (a) A student's academic performance;
- (b) Any significant sickness or physical injury, or any psychological trauma suffered by a student;
- (c) Any harassment, intimidation, or bullying, as defined in section 3313.666 of the Revised Code, by or against a student in violation of the School's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation and Anti-Bullying policy;
- (d) Any request by a student to identify as a gender that does not align with the student's biological sex;
- (e) Exhibition of suicidal ideation or persistent symptoms of depression, or severe anxiety, or other mental health issues.

Sexuality Content

The School shall not provide instruction, either by the School or a third-party on behalf of the School, that includes sexuality content to students in grades kindergarten through third grade.

Pursuant to this policy, the School must:

- Ensure that the sexuality content, whether presented by the School or a third-party on behalf of the School, is age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate for the ages of the students, regardless of their age or grade level; and
- Provide parents the opportunity to review any instructional material that includes sexuality content

Upon request of a student's parent, the student shall be excused from instruction that includes sexuality content and be permitted to participate in an alternative assignment.

Change in Student Services

The School shall promptly notify a student's parent via email and/or phone call of any substantial change in the student's services, including counseling services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or the School's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student.

The notice to parents must reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children. The School shall not inhibit parental access to the student's education and health records maintained by the School.

School personnel are prohibited from directly or indirectly encouraging a student to withhold information from a parent concerning the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or a change in related services or monitoring.

School personnel are also prohibited from discouraging or prohibiting the notification of parents or the involvement in decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.

Prior to providing any type of healthcare services to a student, including physical, mental, or behavior healthcare services, the School must obtain authorization from parents and notify a parent whether the service is to be provided by the School under state law and if other options for a student to access the service exist. Such authorization and notice requirement does not apply to emergency situations, first aid, other unanticipated minor health care services, or health care services provided pursuant to a student's IEP or a school's obligation under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

Notification

At the beginning of each school year the School will notify parents of:

- Each health care service offered at or facilitated in cooperation with the School
- Whether the service is required to be provided by the school under state law and if other options for a student to access the service exist
- The option to withhold consent or decline any specified service

Written Concerns and Appeals

A parent may file a written concern regarding a topic addressed in this policy with the School principal or assistant principal, including a statement identifying which requirement(s) of this Policy the School has violated, facts supporting the allegation, and the reporting parent's name and contact information. The principal or assistant principal shall make reasonable efforts to have a follow up meeting with the parent via teleconference, virtually, or in-person. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the written concern, the concern must be resolved.

A parent may appeal a principal's or assistant principal's decision to the superintendent. If a parent appeals the principal's or assistant principal's decision, the superintendent, or a designee of the superintendent, shall conduct a hearing on the decision. Based on the findings of that hearing, the superintendent shall decide whether to affirm the principal's or assistant principal's decision.

If the superintendent does not affirm the decision, the superintendent shall determine a resolution to the parent's concern. A parent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the Board. The Board shall review the superintendent's decision and, if the Board determines it necessary, hold a hearing on the decision and, based on that hearing, either affirm the superintendent's decision or determine a new resolution to the parent's concern.

The School must make this policy publicly available and post it on the School's website.