



# San Diego Unified School District

## Fact Sheet

### Parent/Guardian Rights

In a democracy, parents and guardians are encouraged and welcomed to become involved in the formal education of their children enrolled in public schools. Early and consistent parental involvement helps children do well academically. When this involvement is combined with a partnership between home and school, the student, the school, and the community benefit.

Parents and guardians of enrolled students have the right to be included in the educational process and to have access to the system on behalf of their children. These rights are outlined in Education Code Section 51101 as follows:

#### SUMMARY

Early and consistent parent involvement has been shown to improve student achievement. San Diego Unified School District is committed to actively engaging parents and guardians in the education of their children. Parent/Guardian rights are outlined in Education Code Section 51101.

**Classroom Observing:** Parents have the right to visit their child's classroom to observe activities. The time and date of the visitation must be arranged in advance with the school.

**Teacher Conferencing:** Parents have the right to request a conference with their child's teacher(s) or the principal. Parents should contact the school to schedule a date and time convenient to all participants.

**Volunteering:** Parents have the right to volunteer their time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and programs. Parents should contact the school to determine the terms and conditions of this service.

**Student Attendance:** Parents have the right to be notified in a timely manner if their child is absent from school without permission.

**Student Testing:** Parents have the right to be notified of their child's performance on standardized and statewide tests and the school's ranking on these tests. (Under other state law, parents may request that their child not participate in the statewide tests.)

**School Selection:** Parents have the right to request that their child be enrolled in any school in the district. The district is not compelled to grant the request.

**Safe School Environment:** Parents have the right and are entitled to the assurance of a safe and supportive learning environment for their child.

**Curriculum Materials:** Parents have the right to examine the curriculum materials of the class or classes in which their child is enrolled.

**Student Academic Progress:** Parents have the right to be informed of their child's academic progress in school and of the persons to contact if they want more information or assistance with their child.

**Student Records:** Parents have the right to access their child's records and to question anything they feel is inaccurate or misleading or an invasion of privacy. Parents have the right to a timely response from the school district about their questions.

**Standards:** Parents have the right to information about the academic standards their child is expected to meet.

**School Rules:** Parents have the right to receive written notification of school rules, attendance policies, dress codes, and procedures for school visitations.

**Psychological Testing:** Parents have the right to receive information on all psychological testing recommended for their child.

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**Councils and Committees:** Parents have the right to participate as members of a parent advisory committee, school-site council, or site-based management leadership team in accordance with established rules and regulations for membership. Parents also have the right to attend at least two meetings per year scheduled by the school to get information on school issues and activities.

**Policy Development:** Parents and guardians have the right and the opportunity to work in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership with the school to help their child succeed. The governing board of each school district shall adopt a jointly created policy that outlines how parents and guardians, school staff, and students may share the responsibility for the intellectual, physical, emotional, social development, and well being of their students. This policy shall include, but is not limited to:

1. How parents/guardians and the school will help students to achieve academic and other standards.
2. How the school will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive learning environment to all students enrolled.
3. What parents and guardians can do to support their child's learning environment, including but not limited to:
  - Monitoring school attendance;
  - Monitoring homework completion;
  - Encouraging participation in extracurricular activities;
  - Monitoring and regulating television viewing;
  - Planning and participating in activities at home supportive of classroom activities;
  - Volunteering at school; and
  - Participating in decision-making processes at school.

**Education Code Section 51101(c)** states:

"This section may not be construed as to authorize a school to inform a parent or guardian... or to permit participation by a parent or guardian in the education of a child, if it conflicts with a valid restraining order, protective order, or order for custody or visitation issued by a court of competent jurisdiction."

### Beyond High School

Students and parents have the right to be informed of college entrance requirements. Students and parents need to know the series of college preparatory classes to take in high school. The minimum requirements vary, depending on the selected college or university. The "a-g" requirements noted below are submitted by the Regents of the University of California and are among the most rigorous college preparation requirements:

- a. An English class every semester of every year for four years.
- b. A mathematics class every semester of every year for three years, including algebra, geometry and intermediate algebra. Four years are recommended.
- c. Two years of a laboratory science. An additional year or more is recommended.
- d. Two years of history /social science, which include U.S. government, world history, culture, and geography.
- e. Two years of the same language other than English. Three years or more are recommended.
- f. One year of visual and performing arts.
- g. One year (two semesters) of college preparatory electives in addition to those required in "a-f" above.

To gain admission to college, students must generally also take and submit scores from either the SAT-I or the American College Test (ACT). The high school counseling office can provide a list of testing dates and location.

Contact Information: Parent, Community, and Student Engagement: (619) 725-8193

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