

# Know Your Rights

## Parents and Guardians of Tennessee Students in K-12 Public School

**Education is a legal obligation upon the state, school-aged children, and legal guardians.**

Tennessee is required by the state constitution to establish a free education system. Students that are 6-17 years old are required by state law to obtain an education. Legal guardians of school-aged children are legally responsible for making sure that students are attending school.

**Parents and guardians have the right to:**

### **Protect their children and their children's rights.**

Parents and guardians have the right to protect children from discrimination and harm. They have the right to follow procedures to file complaints and appeals if they believe their child's rights are being violated at school.

Additionally, they have the right to seek accommodations from schools to help students observe religious practices.

### **Enroll their children in schools of their choice.**

Parents and guardians have the right to make decisions about their child's upbringing, which includes the school that their child attends. Guardians can choose private, public, or homeschool options.

### **Participate in their child's education planning.**

Parents have the right to review curriculum choices and instructional materials that are decided on by their state, district, and school. Additionally, guardians of students with disabilities have the right to participate in deciding their child's special education services and Individualized Education Plan.

### **Access their child's educational records.**

Privacy laws, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), grants guardians the right to access and review their child's educational records.

### **Be involved in school-sponsored activities meant for parents.**

Parents and guardians have the right to be involved with town halls, school board meetings, parent-teacher organizations, and parent-teacher meetings in schools and classrooms.