

Know Your Rights

Tennessee Students in K-12 Public Schools

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.

Education is a legal obligation. Still, **students have rights.**

Students have the right to a safe learning environment.

Schools are legally required to have policies and procedures in place to protect students from bullying, violence, and harm to ensure a conducive learning environment.

Students have the right to observe their religious practices.

Students have a constitutional right to practice their chosen religion. Students have the right to organize religious clubs, wear clothes and eat foods that adhere to their religious beliefs, and receive accommodations that will make it easier for them to fast, pray, and observe holidays.

Students have the right to freedom of speech and expression.

Students have a constitutional right to express themselves, as long as it does not disrupt the operation of the school or interfere with the rights of other students.

Students have the right to non-discrimination.

Students have the right to access school-provided resources, services, and activities without discrimination on the basis of their religious beliefs or religious practices.

Students have the right to due process.

Students have the constitutional right to due process when facing disciplinary actions, which includes an understanding of the allegations, the opportunity to be heard, and the right to appeal the allegations.