

## Parents' Bill of Rights (HB 241) (2021) and Parental Rights in Education (HB 1557) (2022)

In 2021, the Legislature enacted HB 241, the Parents' Bill of Rights, codified in [Chapter 1014, F.S.](#) It provides that "important information relating to a minor child should not be withheld, either inadvertently or purposefully, from his or her parent." ([s. 1014.02, F.S.](#)) School boards, as well as other government agencies, may not infringe upon the fundamental rights of parents unless it is "reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by a less restrictive means." ([s. 1014.03, F.S.](#)) These rights include the right "to direct the education and care of [the parent's] minor children." ([s. 1014.04\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#)) Finally, school boards must adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the schools, including a process to object to instructional materials, opt-out of sex education, and other rights previously enacted in the Education Code ([Chapters 1000-1013, F.S.](#)). ([s. 1014.05, F.S.](#))

Further, in 2022, the Legislature enacted HB 1557, entitled Parental Rights in Education. This bill amended the Powers and Duties of District School Boards. ([s. 1001.42, F.S.](#)) It requires school boards to adopt procedures for notifying parents/legal guardians "if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student." ([s. 1001.42\(8\)\(c\)1., F.S.](#)) District procedures can only permit withholding information from a parent/legal guardian "if a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect." ([s. 1001.42\(8\)\(c\)2., F.S.](#))

The Legislature also added to the Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities. [Section 1001.51\(12\)\(a\), Florida Statutes](#), provides that "Such records and reports shall include any determination to withhold from a parent information regarding the provision of any services to support the mental, physical, or emotional well-being of the parent's minor child. Any such determination must be based solely on child-specific information personally known to the school personnel and documented and approved by the school principal or his or her designee. Such determination must be annually reviewed and redetermined." ([s. 1001.51\(12\)\(a\), F.S.](#))