

Parent Rights in General Education (Without an IEP or 504 Plan)

Why Parent Rights Matter

Even if your child does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 Plan, you still have rights. As a parent or guardian, you play a key role in your child's education, and schools are required to involve and inform you in many ways.

Your Rights in General Education

1. Right to Be Informed

- You have the right to know about your child's academic performance, attendance, and behavior.
- Schools must communicate with you about classroom expectations, grading policies, and assessments.

2. Right to Request a Meeting

- You can ask to meet with your child's teacher, school counselor, or principal at any time.
- You do not need to wait for a parent-teacher conference to express concerns.

3. Right to Ask for Help

- If your child is struggling, you have the right to ask what supports or interventions are available.
- You can request to see classroom data or screening results.

4. Right to Participate in Problem-Solving Teams

- Many Kansas schools have Student Intervention Teams or MTSS meetings to review concerns.
- You have the right to be invited and provide input if your child is being discussed.

5. Right to Request an Evaluation

- If concerns continue, you can ask for a formal evaluation to determine if your child qualifies for special education.
- This request must be in writing and the school is required to respond.

6. Right to Be Treated with Respect

- All families have the right to be heard, included, and treated as partners in education.
 - Language access should be provided if English is not your preferred language.
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What Parents Say

- “I thought I had to wait for the school to tell me what was wrong.”
 - “Once I spoke up, we came up with a plan to help.”
 - “The school helped before an IEP was even considered.”
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Parent Reflection Questions

- Have I shared my concerns or observations with the school?
 - Do I know what support my child is currently receiving?
 - What questions do I still have about my child’s progress?
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Important Reminder

You are not expected to be the expert in education, but you are the expert in your child. Asking questions, staying involved, and advocating for your child is a powerful way to support their success.

To learn more, visit www.ksde.org or connect with your school's teacher, counselor, or principal.

If you would like additional guidance navigating school supports, Bison Bridge Behavioral Insights offers resources, consultation, and advocacy for families across Kansas. Visit bisonbridgebi.com to learn more.