

Parents' Bill of Rights Information

In compliance with Section 115C-76.25 of the North Carolina General Statutes, Pitt County Schools is making a list of parents' rights with respect to their children available on its website. For purposes of this document, parent includes any person who has legal custody of a student, including a natural parent, adoptive parent, or legal guardian.

The rights described below reflect long-standing Pitt County Board of Education policies and practices. The information provided below each right connects to Pitt County Board of Education policies or clarifies how parents may enforce their rights.

1. Parents have the legal right to consent or withhold consent for participation in reproductive health and safety education programs, consistent with the requirements of Section 81.30 of Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3540](#) requires staff to comply with Section 115C-81.30 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The policy clarifies that parents may make decisions with regard to their children's participation in reproductive health and safety education programs. Language from the policy is provided below.

Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the principal or designee shall notify parents of the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction. A copy of all objectives and materials will be available for review in the media center of each school where these subjects will be taught. School personnel must inform any resource speakers of the school system's reproductive health and safety education guidelines, and speakers must adhere to those guidelines.

The principal or designee shall also notify parents of the right to withhold or withdraw consent for their child's participation in all reproductive health and safety education instruction or in specific topics such as STDs, the effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Parents may also withhold consent to student participation in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy. Any parent wishing to withhold consent must do so in writing to the principal.

2. Parents have the right to seek a medical or religious exemption from immunization requirements, consistent with the requirements of Sections 156 and 157 of Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4110](#) provides that parents may request exemption from the immunization requirements for entry to public school on medical or religious grounds. Immunization requirements for entry to public school are set by the State of North Carolina and not by the Pitt County Board of Education.

Families seeking an exemption from immunization requirements on medical grounds should review [requirements to obtain this exemption set by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#). Families claiming an exemption from immunization on religious grounds should provide a written statement setting out their bona fide religious objection to the immunization requirements and include the name and date of birth for the student for whom the exemption is claimed. The written statement should be provided to the school in which the student seeks to enroll at the time of enrollment. Separate statements should be prepared for each student being enrolled in Pitt County Schools.

3. Parents have the right to review statewide standardized assessment results as part of the State report card.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 1320/3560](#) requires school system officials to disseminate to all parents, schools, and the public, a school system report card. This information is displayed on each school's website and on the website for Pitt County Schools.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction provides a state report card annually which shares information about standardized assessment results. More information can be accessed at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/accountability-and-testing>.

4. Parents have the right to request an evaluation of their child for an academically or intellectually gifted program, or for identification as a child with a disability as provided in Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policies 1730/4022/7231](#) and [3520](#) address services for students with disabilities. The [AIG Plan approved by the Pitt County Board of Education](#) addresses evaluation of students for academically or intellectually gifted programs. Pitt County Schools welcomes parents' requests for evaluations of their children.

5. Parents have the right to inspect and purchase public school unit textbooks and other supplementary instructional materials, as provided in Article 8, Part 3 of Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3210](#) addresses inspection of instructional materials by parents. Although not directly addressed in Board Policy, the Pitt County Board of Education complies with [Section 115C-102 of the North Carolina General Statutes](#). By law, any parent "may purchase any instructional material needed for any child in the public schools of the

State from the board of education of the local school administrative unit in which the child is enrolled or, in the case of basic textbooks, from the State Board of Education.”

6. Parents have the right to access information relating to the unit's policies for promotion or retention, including high school graduation requirements.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3420](#) addresses promotion and retention. The Pitt County Board of Education has also approved specific promotion and retention standards which are listed in the [Parent/Student Handbook](#). [Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3460](#) addresses graduation requirements for high school seniors.

7. Parents have the right to receive student report cards on a regular basis that clearly depict and grade the student's academic performance in each class or course, the student's conduct, and the student's attendance.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3400](#) and the [Parent/ Student Handbook](#) address the evaluation of student progress and report cards. The Traditional School Calendar lists dates that report cards will be distributed. For the 2023-2024 school year, the charts below indicate the dates on which report cards will be distributed.

Grades K-8 (Nine Week) Marking Periods		
WEEK	END DATE	REPORT CARD ISSUED
1st 9 Weeks	October 31, 2023	November 8, 2023
2nd 9 Weeks	January 22, 2024	January 31, 2024
3rd 9 Weeks	April 4, 2024	April 10, 2024
4th 9 Weeks	June 7, 2024	Mailed Home

Grades 9-12 (Six Week) Marking Periods		
WEEK	END DATE	REPORT CARD ISSUED
1st 6 Weeks	October 9, 2023	October 16, 2023
2nd 6 Weeks	November 21, 2023	December 4, 2023
3rd 6 Weeks	January 22, 2024	January 31, 2024
4th 6 Weeks	March 6, 2024	March 13, 2024
5th 6 Weeks	April 25, 2024	May 6, 2024
7th 6 Weeks	June 7, 2024	Mailed Home

8. Parents have the right to access information relating to the State public education system, State standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and textbook requirements.

Information regarding the State public education system, State standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and textbook requirements may be accessed through websites for the [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction](#) and the [State Board of Education](#).

9. Parents have the right to participate in parent-teacher organizations.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 5010](#) provides information on parent organizations. While participation in parent organizations is voluntary, all parents are encouraged to participate in parent-teacher organizations.

10. Parents have the right to opt in to certain data collection for their child, as provided in Article 7B, Part 5 and Article 29 of Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4720](#) provides that the school system must obtain the prior written consent of a parent before a student is required to participate in a survey that reveals information concerning the following “protected topics”:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
- Sex behavior and attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent; or
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

11. Parents have the right for students to participate in protected student information surveys only with parental consent, as provided in Article 7B, Part 5 of Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes.

[Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4720](#) provides that the school system must obtain the prior written consent of a parent before a student is required to participate in a survey that reveals information concerning the following “protected topics”:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
- Sex behavior and attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent; or
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

12. Parents have the right to review all available records of materials their child has borrowed from a school library.

The Pitt County Board of Education supports parents’ rights to review available records of material their children have borrowed from a school library. The system utilized for library book checkout is Destiny, and any materials checked out to a student can be found under the Destiny Discover login. To access Destiny,

1. Go to www.pittschools.org. Click the **“Select a School”** drop down menu in the top left corner of the homepage. Choose your child’s school from the list of schools.
2. Once on your school’s website, go to **“Our Resources”** (on the top ribbon of each school’s homepage).



3. Select **“Media Center”** from the **“Our Resources”** drop down menu.
4. On the **“Media Center”** webpage, click on **“Destiny Catalog.”**
5. On the **“Destiny Catalog”** page, choose **“Login”** (top right corner of the **“Destiny Catalog”** page).



6. In the new window the patron should log in using their PCS network login (which is the same as how they log into their Chromebook).

Username

Password

👁

Close
Login

- a. User name is typically the first 6 letters of last name and first initial (example: LastnaF, or DoeJ)
 - b. Students who do not remember their passwords can ask their teachers.
7. After entering the username and password, click the login button.
8. Once logged in, the top menu bar has options for “**Home**,” “**My Stuff**,” “**Collections**,” and “**More**.”
 - a. Click “**My Stuff**” and select “**Checkouts**” to review the list of materials checked out by the student.
 - b. Use the search bar in the top right corner to search book titles in the school’s collection.

For additional questions or concerns, parents may contact their school’s media coordinator.