



www.4PublicEducation.org

Education Bill of Rights

September 2022

We, the undersigned, find that a free, high quality, public education is a key pillar of democracy and a right established under the Virginia Constitution. A public education is also one pathway to our aspiration of a just and equitable culture and country, in which each child has the opportunity to explore and excel, to the best of their ability and desire.

In pursuit of the right of an exceptional education we find further that:

1. **Children** have the right to learn in a safe, inviting, and nurturing environment, free from prejudice, bias, bullying, harassment, shame, or extreme forms of discipline, and to be challenged with materials, guidance and learning opportunities that will stimulate and satisfy their intellectual curiosity, build their critical thinking skills, and equip each student with the education needed to prosper as a productive member of society; and
2. **Parents** have the right to engage in this experience with transparency, including the opportunity to comment on educational programs and materials and volunteer in and outside the classroom, as appropriate, and with respect for all students, teachers, administrators and the school system; and
3. **Teachers and staff** have the right to work in an environment that is respectful, is free from harassment, values their training and professional experience, allows for individual creativity, and provides them with the resources support and time needed to provide an exceptional educational opportunity to each child; and
4. **The Community** has a right to engage with the school system, as appropriate, to ensure that the policies and programs accurately reflect general and evolving community standards for the classroom that have been determined to be most beneficial to the education of students, particularly those that relate to literature, science, and social issues.

We further find that:

Universal agreement is not a standard for a robust educational experience and in fact, unconventional, evolving and/or controversial topics of discussion should be explored with students, as appropriate, for their social-emotional level of development, and that,

The purpose of education both, and equally, is to:

1. **Prepare students to be prosperous and productive members of our society** and the future workforce and,
2. **Fully participate in our democracy** as informed, curious, and caring citizens.

To sign on to this document as an individual or an organization, [click here](#).