

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: S3/13/97 S3/24/97

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 592

4  
5 By: Senators Jeffries and Boozman

### For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PARENTS WHOSE  
10 CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES."

### Subtitle

14 "TO PROVIDE A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PARENTS  
15 WHOSE CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED IN PUBLIC  
16 SCHOOLS."

17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19  
20 SECTION 1. Short title.

21 This act shall be known and may be cited as "The Parental Bill of Rights  
22 and Responsibilities in Education Act of 1997".

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24 SECTION 2. Definitions.

25 As used in this act:

26 (1) "Parent" means a father or mother or legal guardian;

27 (2) "Education record" means data or information directly relating to a  
28 student that is collected or maintained by a school or by a person acting on  
29 behalf of the school, including, but not limited to, academic records,  
30 journals and portfolios, academic and non-academic tests, assessments, teacher  
31 and counselor evaluations, health and personal data, behavioral and  
32 psychological evaluations, scores on standardized intelligence tests, and  
33 interest inventory results.

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35 SECTION 3. Parental rights.

36 (a) Recognizing the rights of parents to direct the upbringing and

1 education of their children, the Eighty-First General Assembly of the State of  
2 Arkansas directs that no later than September 1, 1998, the board of directors  
3 of each public school district, after holding public hearings and accepting  
4 comments and suggestions from parents and teachers, shall adopt and implement  
5 policies to ensure that parents have rights in regard to their children who  
6 are enrolled in public schools. Such policies shall include, but not be  
7 limited to, the following:

8           (1) Procedures whereby parents can review their child's education  
9 record;

10           (2) Procedures whereby parents can review instructional  
11 materials;

12           (3) Procedures whereby parents can review the curriculum;

13           (4) Procedures whereby parents can review any written material  
14 produced by their child as a part of any course of study or school activity;

15           (5) Procedures whereby parents can review all books and  
16 instructional materials in the school library; and

17           (6) Procedures whereby parents can review any of the materials  
18 covered under this act which may be maintained by an education service  
19 cooperative, established under § 6-13-1001 et seq., in which the school  
20 district is a member.

21           (b)(1) The board of directors of each local school district shall  
22 notify the public as to the existence of the policies adopted and implemented  
23 under this act and any subsequent changes made to the policies.

24           (2) A copy of the policies shall be filed with the State  
25 Department of Education and at the administrative offices of the local school  
26 district and shall be available for public inspection.

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28           SECTION 4. Exception.

29           (a) No local school district shall be required to allow parents to  
30 review any academic test or assessment in which the testing company, in its  
31 contract with the district, Education Service Cooperative or the State of  
32 Arkansas, prohibits viewing of the actual test.

33           (b) Such right to review shall only apply after July 1, 1997, and only  
34 apply to any academic test or assessment in which a new contract is negotiated  
35 between the testing company and the district, the Education Service  
36 Cooperative, or the State of Arkansas after the effective date of this act.

