

As required by NC State Law Senate Bill 49 / SL 2023-106, the following policies shall go into effect as of January 1st, 2024

Adopted December 15th, 2023

Parent Concerns and Appeal Procedures

TMCS will strive to resolve parent concerns within 7 days of notification of a concern and if the concern is unresolved after 30 days, the school must provide a statement explaining why it has not been resolved. The parent can then request a parental concern hearing before the State Board or bring a declaratory judgment action for injunctive relief.

Parents may appeal school decisions through the following order:

1. Principal
2. School Board
3. State Board of Education

Student Names and Pronouns

TMCS will notify parents if a student wants school staff or school records to call them by a different name or pronoun. The procedures shall not prohibit parents from accessing any of their child's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the public school unit, except when a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in the child becoming an abused juvenile or neglected juvenile, as those terms are defined in G.S. 7B-101.

Instruction of Gender Identity, Sexual Activity, or Sexuality

TMCS will not include instruction of gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality within the curriculum provided to grades kindergarten through fourth grade. Curriculum is defined as meaning "the standard course of study and support materials, locally developed curriculum, supplemental instruction, and textbooks and other supplementary materials." This policy does not, however, prohibit responses by a school employee to student-initiated questions.

Any instruction of gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality for all grades beyond 4th grade must include an opt out option for parents.

Enrollment Preference for Active Military Duty Families

TMCS will reserve the right to preference active military duty families.

Enrollment of Out-of-State Students

TMCS reserves the right to enroll out-of-state students should the school not be able to fill its current enrollment with eligible students. Out-of State students may not exceed 10 percent of the total enrollment of TMCS.

Informing Parents of the Rights

TMCS will inform parents of their rights to the following (this can be done by posting on the school website):

1. Make decisions for participation in reproductive health and safety education programs.
 - This includes information about the curriculum to be taught to the student, information about the instructor, and an opt out option.
2. Seek exemptions from immunization requirements.
 - This can be communicated with the School Principal and School Nurse who will then provide additional information regarding exemptions.
3. Review statewide standardized assessment results.
 - Generalized testing information regarding Read to Achieve and the School Report Card Grade will be made available on the school website.
 - Parents may request their student's individual assessment results by communicating with the school administration and the student's teacher.
4. Request an evaluation of their child for identification as a child with a disability or as academically or intellectually gifted.
 - Parents may make this request by communicating with the school's EC Director and/or the student's teacher. ***Please note that identification of academically and intellectually gifted students does not formally occur until 3rd grade.***
5. Inspect and purchase textbooks and other supplementary instructional materials.
 - Parents may request this information by communicating with the school administration and the student's teacher.
6. Access information on promotion and retention.
 - Parents may request this information by communicating with the school administration.
7. Receive regular report cards that show academic performance, conduct, and attendance.
 - Quarterly report cards will be sent to parents including academic standing, attendance, and student conduct. Additionally, the school will conduct regular attendance reviews and communicate with parents if they have surpassed the 3, 6, or 10 day thresholds based on the school's attendance policy.
8. Access information on the State public education system.
 - Information can be accessed through <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/>
9. Participate in parent-teacher organizations.
 - All parents will be given the ability to participate in the school's Parent-Teacher Committee.

10. Opt-in to participation in protected student information surveys in accordance with State law and opt-out of data collection in other surveys in accordance with federal law.
 - Parents will be notified when specific information regarding their child that includes identifiers are requested for state reporting.
 - Parents will be given the opportunity to opt out of this information being included in reporting.
11. Review available records of materials their child borrowed from a school library.
 - Parents may request this information by communicating with the school administration and school librarian.

Parent Guide to Student Achievement

At the start of each school year, TMCS will provide parents the State Board's requirements for student achievement in a format that is in writing, understandable, and discussed during the beginning of the year Open House. ***Please note that the State Board is in the process of developing such requirements.***

Parent Involvement

TMCS will promote parent involvement by doing the following:

1. Providing links to parents for community services.
 - Parents will be given access to volunteer opportunities by postings on the school website, social media, and school-wide email communications.
2. Establishing opportunities for parental involvement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of family involvement programs.
 - All parents are given the opportunity to participate in the school's Parent-Teacher Committee and provide feedback regarding this committee and other family involvement programs.
3. Establishing opportunities for parents to participate on school advisory councils and in school volunteer programs and other activities.
 - All parents are given the opportunity to participate in the school's Parent-Teacher Committee and attend monthly School Board meetings.
4. Providing opportunities for parents to apply and be a member of the School Board.

Parent Information Request

TMCS will provide the following regarding parent information requests:

1. Provide for parental participation in their child's education to improve parent and teacher cooperation in areas such as homework, school attendance, and discipline that aligns with the parent guide for student achievement.

- Parents may provide feedback directly to their student's teacher and school administration.
 - Additionally, parents may provide feedback to the School Board by email communication or attending monthly school board meetings.
2. Effectively communicate to parents the manner in which textbooks are used to implement the school's curricular objectives.
 - Parents may request this information by communicating with their student's teacher and school administration.
 3. Establish a procedure for parents to learn about their child's course of study and the source of any supplementary instructional materials. This procedure shall include the process for parents to inspect and review all textbooks and supplementary instructional materials that will be used in their child's classroom.
 - Parents will be provided information about their student's course of study during the beginning of the year Open House.
 - Parents may request additional information regarding their student's course of study and any supplementary instructional materials by communicating with the student's teacher and school administration.
 - TMCS will post this information within the school and on the school's website for review by parents.
 4. Establish a means for parents to object to textbooks and supplementary instructional materials consistent with the requirements of G.S. 115C-98.
 - Parents may communicate objections with their student's teacher and school administration.
 - Additionally, parents reserve the right to communicate objections with the School Board.
 5. Establish a process for parents to review materials for and to consent or withhold consent for participation in reproductive health and safety education programs.
 - Parents will be provided specific information regarding any reproductive health and safety education programs their student may participate in.
 - Parents will be provide the opportunity to have their student opt out of any instruction regarding reproductive health and safety education.
 6. Establish a process for parents to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at their child's school, including both curricular and extracurricular activities.
 - Parents will be provided information regarding any club, activities, and/or athletics that their child may participate in.
 - Parents may also request additional information about any of these activities by communicating with their student's teacher, club sponsor, or coach and school administration.

Parent Health Notification

TMCS will provide the following health information notifications to parents:

1. Notice of each health care service offered at his or her child's school and the means for the parent to provide consent for any specific service. A parent's consent to a health care service does not waive the parent's right to access his or her child's educational records or health records or to be notified of changes in his or her child's services or monitoring.
2. How to exercise their rights under this new law.
 - Parents may communicate any questions or concerns regarding their student's health information and/or health care services offered by the school with the school nurse and school administration.
3. Prior to administration to students in kindergarten through third grade, a copy of any student well-being questionnaire or health screening form and the means for the parent to consent to the use of the questionnaire or form for his or her child.
 - Parents will be provided questionnaires regarding their student's well-being at the start of each school year and given the opportunity to opt out of completing such questionnaires.
 - Parents may request more information or formally opt out by communicating with the school nurse and school administration.
4. Prior to or contemporaneous with changes, notice of changes in services or monitoring related to his or her child's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for that child.
 - Parents will be provided notification of any changes that may take place regarding services provided to their child regarding their well-being and may opt out of such changes.
5. Parents have the right to request Religious Exemption for any medical and/or immunization requirements.

Student Well-Being

At The Mountain Community School, we encourage students to discuss issues related to their well-being with their parents. We prohibit school employees from not notifying parents about their child's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring. Further, we do not encourage or take actions that have the effect of encouraging students to withhold information from their parents about their mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring.

Parent Right to Student Educational and Health Records

Parents have the right to access their student's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the School consistent with state and federal law, except as limited by G.S. 114A-10(6)a or when disclosure would result in the child becoming an abused juvenile or neglected juvenile, as those terms are defined in G.S. 7B-101.

- Parents may request this information by communicating with school administration.