

FAMILY ISSUES FACT SHEET

No.2022-11(January 2022)

Academic Transparency

SB 1211 Schools; Materials; Activities; Posting; Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SB 1211 ensures parents have reasonable access to review instructional materials and activities used in their child's school, including textbooks (print or digital), reading materials, websites, videos, and online applications used for student instruction. This also includes presentations, assemblies, and lectures.

Arizona law currently allows parents to review instructional materials (A.R.S. §15-730), but restrictions by school districts and charter schools have made it difficult for many parents to access these materials. SB 1211 requires public district and charter schools to increase curriculum transparency by prominently displaying available information on the schools' websites and at the school offices.

WHAT DOES SB 1211 DO?

SB 1211 implements parental access to all instructional materials by requiring the following key measures:

- Grants parents the right to review
 - All instructional materials, including reading materials, videos, digital materials, handouts, worksheets, and more
 - Teacher training materials
 - Textbooks being considered
- Requires schools to post on a public portion of their websites
 - List of instructional materials
 - Materials on these topics - nondiscrimination, diversity, equity, inclusion, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, bias, action-oriented civics, service-learning or social and emotional competencies – must be posted 72 hours prior to use
 - Materials on all other topics must be available within seven school days after first use
- Implements a review process with a set timeline for when parents are denied access as required by the bill.

TALKING POINTS

1. **Since parents are fundamentally responsible for the upbringing of their children, it makes sense they have access to materials being taught at their children's school.** It should be reasonably easy to access the information.
2. **Current law providing for parental review of material is meaningless if parents can't readily access the material.** SB 1211 breaks down onerous restrictions and allows more transparency. Everyone wants transparency.
3. **Parents can already easily access grades, financial and enrollment information, graduation and dropout stats, and more on a school's website. It should be just as easy for parents to access materials being used to teach their children.**

CONCLUSION

SB 1211 ensures parents have access to review available instructional materials and activities used in their child's district or charter school, including textbooks (print or digital), reading materials, websites, videos, and online applications, used for student instruction. This also includes presentations, assemblies, and lectures.