

To Bass Lake School Board members

I am proposing a new Parental Notification policy.

This policy would require our district to notify parents if:

- Their children have had any significant physical injury while at school.
- A school employee suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions.
- There is any incident or complaint of a verbal or physical altercation involving their child, including incidents of bullying by or against a student.
- A student is requesting to be identified or treated as a gender other than the student's biological sex.

A new Rasmussen poll shows California voters strongly support a parent notification policy like the one being proposed here. According to a Rasmussen report, "82% of California Likely Voters disagree with the statement, 'A person loses their parental rights when a child enters public school,' including 69% who Strongly Disagree. Only 12% think parental rights are lost when children enter public school. Eighty-four percent (84%) of California voters would support a local law that required parents to be notified of any major change in a child's physical, mental, or emotional health or academic performance, including 66% who would Strongly Support such a law. Only 12% would oppose a law requiring parental notification.

If such a law included notifying parents of a child identifying, requesting to identify, or being treated as a gender that doesn't align with their biological sex, 62% of California voters would be more likely to support it, including 46% who would be Much More Likely to support the parental notification law. Twenty-seven percent (27%) would be less likely to support it."

In addition, The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) already affirms a parent's right to review their child's student records. Under FERPA, school officials can disclose information from a student's records to parents of the student "in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals." 34 C.F.R. Section 99.36(a). Information related to a child's request to go by a different name or to be treated as a different gender is needed by parents so that parents can ensure their child's physical, mental, and emotional needs are being fully met at home and school.

The data clearly shows that California parents support transparency and accountability policies, making it mandatory for the school administrations to inform parents if their child is facing any of these challenges or lifestyle changes.

Thank you for your consideration to adopt this policy.

Diane Flaherty
Bass Lake School Board Member