

5 Questions to Ask Your School About Curriculum and Privacy



Before the school year begins, **parents deserve clear answers on curriculum, library content, and privacy protections.** Use these questions to guide conversations with your school and to protect your family's values and your right to informed consent.

1	If a class, activity, or assignment conflicts with our religious beliefs, what are our options to opt out? <i>Under the 2025 Supreme Court ruling <i>Mahmoud v. Taylor</i>, public schools must let parents opt their children out of instruction, activities, or assignments that conflict with religious beliefs. Since schools don't always proactively share this information, ask before the school year starts what curriculum and reading lists are planned.</i>	Notes
2	Does the school have a policy for objections that aren't religious in nature? <i>The Mahmoud ruling only guarantees opt-outs for religious objections, but some districts choose to go further and accommodate other personal or values-based concerns. Asking directly reveals whether your school offers this flexibility or limits opt-outs strictly to religious grounds.</i>	Notes
3	If we opt out, what alternative activity will my child do, who supervises it, and will their grade be affected? <i>An opt-out is only meaningful if it doesn't come at a cost — whether that's an unsupervised study hall or a lower grade. Confirming these details in advance protects your child from being penalized, academically or otherwise, for your decision.</i>	Notes
4	What are our rights to review or limit my child's access to library books or classroom materials I find objectionable? <i>Parental rights over library access vary by state — some require schools to post their catalog online, offer a formal review process for objections, or require opt-in permission for sensitive materials. Knowing what your state and district actually offer helps you take real steps to limit exposure to content you find objectionable.</i>	Notes
5	Does the school administer any surveys or evaluations covering topics like mental health, religion, political beliefs, or sexual behavior/attitudes — and how are parents notified in advance? <i>The federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) requires advance notice before schools survey students on sensitive topics like mental health, religion, political beliefs, or sexual behavior. Asking about this upfront ensures you're informed before, not after, your child participates in this kind of assessment.</i>	Notes



Tip: Ask your school in writing so you have a dated record of what curriculum, materials, or surveys you've opted out of — and follow up promptly if you don't receive a response.

