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• IDAHO FAMILY  
POLICY CENTER •

IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

# BACK TO SCHOOL IN IDAHO

*A Handbook for Parents*

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**



# BACK TO SCHOOL IN IDAHO

*A Handbook for Parents*

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Dear Idaho Parent,

The start of another school year can be hectic! In addition to the usual back-to-school drama, you may feel a little anxious for your children—especially as our public schools continue to be the epicenter of so many cultural battles.

But there's good news! We're blessed to live in a state that champions parental rights. The Idaho Legislature has long recognized that "the interests and role of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children are implicit in the concept of ordered liberty and deeply rooted in our nation's history and tradition."<sup>1</sup> State law recognizes the "fundamental right" of parents to "nurture and direct their children's destiny, upbringing and education."<sup>2</sup> And Idaho has taken significant steps to protect the legal rights of parents—from public school classrooms to school health centers.

Idaho Family Policy Center affirms the God-given right and responsibility of parents to raise their children according to biblical values. But not everyone agrees. The sad truth is that many aggressive assaults on parental rights aren't happening in Washington DC or the Idaho Statehouse—they're happening in our local schools.

With this in mind, we're excited to bring you our new resource, **Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents**. We'll give you the tools to protect your children under both state and federal law. The following pages highlight fifteen problems that your family might encounter during the school year, providing real world examples and giving you clear action steps for when your rights are violated.

We hope that **Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents** helps your family during this school year. And we pray that our Lord Jesus Christ richly blesses your family in raising children that know and follow Him.

Standing for our children,



**Blaine Konzatti**

President, Idaho Family Policy Center



# PART ONE

## *Protecting Your Child's Conscience*

*“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall away—it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.”*

MATTHEW 18:6



As a parent, you've tried to teach your children right from wrong and truth from deception. But each day, your children are faced with situations where they're pressured into abandoning what you've taught them.

In the first part of **Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents**, you'll learn how Idaho law protects your children's freedom to live according to the moral compass that you're cultivating in them.



# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM BEING FORCED TO SPEAK LIES

## *Compelled Pronouns in Public Schools*

### IDAHO CODE § 67-5909B(4)

*Imagine it's the first day of school for your sixth grade son. The teacher briefly welcomes the students before making an announcement that Jerry – one of your son's classmates – now wishes to identify as "Sherry." The teacher explains that the students should "support" their classmate by using the new name and preferred pronouns. Your son comes home confused and scared. He knows that it would be a lie to treat Jerry as a girl. But he's also afraid of retribution if he doesn't refer to Jerry by the new name and pronouns.*

In recent years, schoolchildren have increasingly found themselves thrust into the middle of an ideological battle over new theories of gender identity. One major flashpoint in this cultural conflict revolves around the use of preferred pronouns in school settings. As one federal appeals court has observed, school pronoun policies represent the "struggle over the social control of language in a crucial debate about the nature and foundation, or indeed real existence, of the sexes."<sup>3</sup>

Against this backdrop, schoolchildren who conscientiously object to affirming gender identity often fear retaliation from teachers and administrators. That's why Idaho Family Policy Center worked with Rep. Ted Hill (R-Eagle) on a new law ensuring that schoolchildren need not be afraid of speaking the truth in love by using legal names and biologically accurate pronouns.<sup>4</sup>

### KNOW THE LAW

#### **Idaho Code § 67-5909B(4)**

Idaho state law protects children from school disciplinary action for using legal names and pronouns consistent with biological sex:

*A student of a public school or public institution of higher education shall not be subject to adverse disciplinary action by the school or institution for declining to:*

*(a) Identify such student's pronouns; or*

*(b) Address a person using a name other than the person's legal name, or a derivative thereof, or by a preferred personal title or pronoun that is inconsistent with the person's sex.*

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Public schools don't have the authority to force your child to violate their conscience or speak lies.



## ACTION STEP ONE

**Make sure your children know that they don't have to say anything that isn't true.** Teachers and other students can't compel your child to use new names or preferred pronouns.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**If the school pressures your children into using new names or preferred pronouns,** communicate with school staff in writing and direct them to Idaho Code § 67-5909B(4).

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if the school disciplines your child for refusing to use new names or preferred pronouns.** Idaho law allows you to file a lawsuit to stop the school from violating your child's rights.<sup>5</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*“A student of a public school ... shall not be subject to adverse disciplinary action for declining to ... address a person using a name other than the person's legal name ... [or] by a preferred personal title or pronoun that is inconsistent with the person's sex.”*

IDAHO CODE § 67-5909B(4)





# PART TWO

## *Protecting Your Child's Mind*

*“He said to him, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”*

MATTHEW 22:37



We are called to love God not only with our hearts, but also with our minds. That's why protecting our children from false ideas is an essential part of our job as parents. And now more than ever, kids need their parents to help them sort the truth from the lies they encounter in the culture around them.

In the second part of **Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents**, you'll learn how Idaho state law empowers you to keep the minds of your children rooted in the truth.

# ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS TAUGHT THE TRUTH

## *Reviewing Classroom Curriculum*

### IDAHO CODE § 33-6001(2)(B)

*You pick your third grader up from school and ask him what he learned during the school day. He launches into a dramatized retelling of Charlotte's Web before pausing midsentence: "I wanted to ask why you didn't tell me I had power and privilege?" You're shocked by the question and ask him what he means. He proceeds to pull an "identity map" out of his backpack—with "male," "white," and "Christian" all listed under a big "OPPRESSOR" heading. "See? I'm an oppressor, but I don't want to be," he says. You ask him where he learned about this, and he responds, "Math class."*

This nightmare scenario was a reality for families in Central California just a few years ago, and it wasn't an isolated instance.<sup>6</sup> Across the country, the alphabet soup of CRT, DEI, and radical LGBT ideology is now often buried in school curriculum, textbooks, and training programs. But before those topics became mainstays of classroom instruction, concerned Idaho lawmakers – led by Sen. Lori Den Hartog (R-Meridian) and former Sen. Mary Souza (R-Coeur d'Alene) – were determined to protect the right of parents to know what their children are being taught in public schools. They ultimately adopted legislation ensuring that parents can access learning materials used in the classroom. Now schools must be fully transparent—and can no longer hide radical ideologies like CRT and DEI in curriculum without parents having the tools to hold them accountable.

### KNOW THE LAW

#### **Idaho Code § 33-6001(2)(b)**

School districts must allow parents the opportunity to review what their children are being taught at school:

*School districts and the boards of directors of public charter schools, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, shall develop and adopt a policy to promote the involvement of parents and legal guardians of children enrolled in the schools within the school district or the charter school, including ... a process by which parents may learn about the course of study for their children and review learning materials, including the source of any supplemental educational materials.*



### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Parents have the right to know what their children are being taught—and a school cannot hide learning materials when a parent seeks to review them.

## ACTION STEP ONE

**Determine your school's process for reviewing the learning materials that are used to teach your children.** Idaho state law requires school districts to have a process in place for parents to review curriculum, but the particulars of that process depend on the school district. You may be able to locate the policy on the school website, but it's more likely you will need to contact the school administrators to determine the process they have in place.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Exercise your right to review the learning materials.** It takes time, but what good is having the right if you aren't taking steps to exercise it? Work with school administrators to review learning materials before the start of the school year and as needed throughout the year.

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if the school prevents you from reviewing learning materials.** Idaho state law allows you to file a complaint when the school lacks the process to facilitate your right of parental review or makes the process unnecessarily burdensome. If your complaint isn't remedied appropriately, you may have a legal claim to stop the school from violating your rights. You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Idaho guarantees parents the right to learn about a public school's course of study for their children and to review their children's learning materials, including the source of any supplemental educational materials.*



# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM BEING INDOCTRINATED

## *Opting Out of Classroom Instruction*

### IDAHO CODE § 33-6001(2)(C)

*Your second grader comes home from school and sits down at the kitchen table. “Our teacher read a weird book to us during class today,” she says. You look up from the kitchen sink and ask your daughter to explain. “Well, it was kinda like a fairytale, like Cinderella—except this time the prince marries another boy. And I’m just really confused. Don’t princes marry girls? At least that’s what you’ve always told me?”*

The above scenario isn’t hypothetical. In fact, books like the one described above were included in elementary school curriculum at some Maryland public schools.<sup>7</sup> When parents attempted to opt their children out of this “LGBT+ inclusive” curriculum, the school district refused—leading the parents to challenge the school district policy in court. The US Supreme Court ultimately sided with the parents, explaining that a public school “burdens the religious exercise of parents when it requires them to submit their children to instruction that poses a very real threat of undermining the religious

beliefs and practices that the parents wish to instill.”<sup>8</sup>

Thankfully, Idaho policymakers already addressed this issue—long before it was ever considered by the US Supreme Court. Idaho state law protects the right of parents to opt children out of any classroom instruction that undermines their “firmly held beliefs, values, or principles.” That means your daughter doesn’t have to listen to her teacher read storybooks that contradict what your family teaches about God’s design for marriage—you can opt her out.

## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 33-6001(2)(c).** School districts must provide:

*A process by which parents who object to any learning material or activity on the basis that it harms the child or impairs the parents’ firmly held beliefs, values, or principles may withdraw their child from the activity, class, or program in which the material is used.*

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Parents – not teachers – have the last word on whether their children are taught controversial topics. You can ALWAYS opt-out.



### ACTION STEP ONE

**Find out what your children are being taught at school.** Talk with your children about what they are learning at school. Pay attention to homework and curriculum assignments. And use the formal school process to learn about what is being taught (see the section *Ensure Your Child is Being Taught the Truth* to learn how you can formally review classroom curriculum).

### ACTION STEP TWO

**Determine your school's opt-out process.** Idaho state law requires every public school to maintain a process by which parents can request an opt-out of any classroom instruction that impairs their firmly held beliefs, values, or principles. The law gives parents significant latitude. In fact, there is no requirement that such beliefs be rooted in a particular religious tenet or church teaching. Reach out to teachers or school administrators to exercise your right to opt-out.

### ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if your school prevents you from opting out.** Idaho state law allows you to file a complaint with your children's school when it lacks an opt-out procedure or fails to follow that procedure.<sup>9</sup> If the school ignores your complaint, you may have a legal claim to stop the school from violating your rights. You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Every school district in Idaho must have a process by which parents can opt their children out of any learning material or activity on the basis that it harms the child or impairs the parents' firmly held beliefs, values, or principles.*

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM RADICAL GENDER IDEOLOGY

## *Inappropriate Gender and Sexual Orientation Instruction*

### IDAHO CODE § 33-6001(5)

*Your elementary student comes home from school, and you ask him what he learned that day. “My teacher today told us that sometimes people are born as boys but are actually girls on the inside. She also said that we could live like boys or girls. It all depends on what we feel like.” You meet with the teacher and learn that the class used “Gender Unicorn” student education resources to explain radical gender ideology.*

In 2021, several advocacy organizations reported that Boise School District was providing teachers with training in the “Gender Unicorn” and other student education resources to teach sexual orientation and gender identity.<sup>10</sup> Parents were rightfully upset—and began demanding answers.

The problem isn’t only in Idaho. According to a 2024 survey by the Pew Research Center, a third of teachers – including 24% of elementary teachers – believe schools should teach students that “boy[s] or girl[s] can be *different* from the sex they were assigned at birth.”<sup>11</sup> Thankfully, we’ve seen action at both the state and federal level to protect children from this type of radical gender instruction. Shortly after assuming his second term in office, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14190, “Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling.”<sup>12</sup> The groundbreaking executive order directs the Secretary of Education to begin the process of rooting out federally funded gender ideology instruction in public schools, among other things. The stated goal is

simple: Eliminate radical gender instruction that “sow[s] division, confusion, and distrust” and “undermine[s] the very foundations of personal identity and family unity.”

Although Executive Order 14190 was warmly received by education reform advocates who have grown increasingly concerned over the prevalence of classroom instruction on topics like gender ideology and sexual orientation in public schools, a more permanent solution was still needed. After all, most decisions regarding instruction on these controversial topics come from school administrators and teachers in local communities, not federal mandates. Recognizing the need to clean house in the Idaho public school system, Rep. Dale Hawkins (R-Fernwood) and Sen. Cindy Carlson (R-Riggins) sponsored legislation with the goal of bringing Idaho schools into compliance with the spirit of Executive Order 14190. The new state law prevents teaching children in public schools about sexual orientation or gender identity in an age-inappropriate or developmentally inappropriate manner.

## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 33-6001(5).** Public schools are prohibited from providing radical gender instruction that is age-inappropriate or developmentally inappropriate:

*A public school shall be required to adopt procedures and policies that prohibit classroom instruction by public school personnel on sexual orientation or gender identity from kindergarten through grade 12 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.*



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Public school teachers can't indoctrinate your children with lies about gender identity and sexual orientation.**



## ACTION STEP ONE

**Determine your school's policy regarding radical gender instruction.** Idaho state law requires school districts to maintain a policy banning age-inappropriate or developmentally inappropriate instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity. But not all schools have adopted policies that comply with the law. In fact, Idaho Family Policy Center released a report in late 2025 which found that over 60% of school districts were out of compliance with the law.<sup>13</sup> Idaho Family Policy Center can help you determine if your school district has a compliant policy.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Monitor the kind of instruction your child is receiving at school.** Talk with your children about what they are learning at school, pay attention to homework and curriculum assignments, and use the formal school process to learn about what is being taught (see the section *Ensure Your Child is Being Taught the Truth* to learn how you can review classroom curriculum).

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if your child receives radical gender instruction at school.** Idaho state law provides you with a right to file a complaint with your school if it does not have a policy that complies with Idaho Code § 33-6001(5) or if your child has received either age-inappropriate or developmentally inappropriate instruction in gender identity or sexual orientation.<sup>14</sup> If your complaint isn't remedied appropriately, you may have a legal claim to stop the school from violating your rights.<sup>15</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Public schools in Idaho must prohibit classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity from kindergarten through grade 12 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.*

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM LIBRARY PORNOGRAPHY

## *Restricting Children's Access to Obscene Library Materials*

### IDAHO CODE § 18-1517B

*Your middle school son has been meeting with a few classmates in the school library to work on a project for English class. While trying to find a collection of stories by Mark Twain, your son inadvertently stumbles upon a graphic novel. As a big fan of comic books, he starts flipping through the book. At first, it seems pretty normal—until he comes across a portion depicting pornographic images. Embarrassed, he quickly shelves the book and tries to continue with his project. A day or two later, he sheepishly mentions to you that he found a book with some “bad stuff” in his school library.*

Unfortunately, a scenario like this is not fictional—even here in Idaho. A 2023 report from Idaho Family Policy Center investigated dozens of school and public libraries across the state to determine whether they were making pornography available to children and teenagers.<sup>16</sup> The results were shocking. At the time the report was released, public schools and/or libraries in nearly thirty cities across Idaho were giving children access to pornographic material like the graphic novel in the story above.<sup>17</sup>

One year later, the Idaho Legislature adopted the “Children’s School and Library Protection Act” (CSLPA), which was largely researched, drafted, and championed by Idaho Family Policy Center. The law protects children from pornography by requiring schools or public libraries to relocate sexually explicit obscene materials to restricted areas with adult-only access.



The CSLPA uses the test for obscenity that was first promulgated by the US Supreme Court in its *Miller v. California* (1973) decision and updated for minors in subsequent cases. This so-called "modified Miller test" includes three criteria for determining whether speech can be classified as obscene or harmful for minors:

- 1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors;*
- 2. The work depicts or describes, in a manner patently offensive with respect to minors, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable state law; and*
- 3. The work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.*

Federal courts have ruled that children don't have a constitutionally protected right to access sexually explicit materials that meet this legal definition for material harmful to minors.<sup>18</sup> That said, children do have the "right to receive information" under the First Amendment to the US Constitution, according to the US Supreme Court.<sup>19</sup> This means that libraries can't restrict children's access to books just because they contain violence, promote racism, use foul language, blaspheme religion, or attack America.<sup>20</sup> Books that feature these constitutionally protected themes do not fall under the scope of the CSLPA. Similarly, storylines that feature LGBT themes or that depict nudity are not restricted unless they meet the legal definition of harmful materials.



Some libraries have attempted to sidestep liability under the CSLPA by requiring parents to sign a blanket consent form before allowing their children to use the library. These blanket consent forms often disclaim library responsibility for the content of their collections and require parents to waive their rights to the legal remedies provided by the CSLPA. But such blanket waivers aren't allowed under the law and therefore aren't enforceable.<sup>21</sup> In fact, the CSLPA requires libraries to restrict children's access to pornographic materials unless a parent is physically present with a child and consents at the time the access occurs. A library that fails to follow the law could be liable for damages, regardless of any prior waiver signed by the parent.

Additionally, the CSLPA requires libraries to adopt policies allowing library patrons to request relocation of harmful materials to adult-only areas that children can't access.<sup>22</sup> Some libraries have tried to limit this provision by rejecting requests for reconsideration unless the person filing the request is a resident with an active library card.<sup>23</sup> However, the CSLPA allows any person to file a reconsideration request, regardless of residency or library card status.

## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 18-1517B.** The “Children’s School and Library Protection Act” creates a duty of care for school and community libraries to take reasonable steps restricting children’s access to sexually explicit material harmful to minors:

*(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school or public library, or an agent thereof, shall not promote, give, or make available to a minor any material that is sexually explicit and, taken as a whole, is harmful to minors.*

*(3) Any minor who obtains material, or parent or legal guardian whose child obtained material, in violation of the provisions of subsection (2) of this section from a school or public library shall have a cause of action against such institution if:*

*(a) The institution gave or made available the material, or the institution failed to take reasonable steps to restrict access by minors to the material;*

*(b) Prior to the filing of a cause of action, the minor, parent, or legal guardian has provided written notice to the school or public library asking for the relocation of such material to a section designated for adults only within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written notice; and*

*(c) Upon receipt of written notice and subsequent to the expiration of sixty (60) days, the institution’s library board or board of trustees failed to relocate the material to an area with adult access only.*

A black and white photograph of a young woman in a school uniform, including a blazer and a patterned tie, standing in a library. She is holding an open book and looking down at it. Behind her are tall bookshelves filled with books.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**School and community libraries must restrict your child’s access to pornographic materials—and if they don’t, you can hold them accountable.**



## ACTION STEP ONE

**Determine if your local public library is following the law.** Idaho Family Policy Center manages the Library Accountability Project, which tracks public library compliance with the “Children’s School and Library Protection Act.” School libraries are not currently included in the Library Accountability Project, but may be added at a future date. Learn more at [IdahoFamily.org/LibraryAccountabilityProject](https://IdahoFamily.org/LibraryAccountabilityProject).

## ACTION STEP TWO

**File a reconsideration request with your school or public library so they restrict children’s access to harmful materials.** Idaho state law gives you the ability to request “the relocation of such material to a section designated for adults only.”<sup>24</sup>

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if your child accesses pornographic material in your school or public library.** You may have a legal claim if the library failed to take reasonable steps to restrict children’s access.<sup>25</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school or public library, or an agent thereof, shall not promote, give, or make available to a minor any material that is sexually explicit and, taken as a whole, is harmful to minors.”*

CHILDREN’S SCHOOL AND LIBRARY PROTECTION ACT

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM SEXUALIZATION IN THE CLASSROOM

## *Sex Education and Sexuality Instruction*

### IDAHO CODE § 33-1611 AND § 33-1611A

*Your 14-year-old is in high school biology class—and he's learning about sexual and reproductive function. But the classroom instruction quickly shifts to the topic of how students can gratify themselves sexually, and soon students are taught how to wear condoms. This isn't the birds and the bees—it's highly sexualized instruction that you don't think is appropriate. And to make matters worse, you had no advance warning that the topics would be taught.*

The above story was shared by an Idaho Falls mother during an Education Committee hearing in the Idaho House of Representatives.<sup>26</sup> Her story helped drive the adoption of a law requiring public schools to notify parents and obtain their written consent before providing instruction on “human sexuality.”

It's important to understand that human sexuality instruction is different from traditional sex education. Under Idaho law, public schools may teach sex ed, which includes the anatomy and physiology of reproductive function.<sup>27</sup> Traditional sex education that meets this definition does not require parental notification or opt-in, although parents can choose to opt their children out.<sup>28</sup>

By contrast, human sexuality includes topics like “sexual pleasure, sexual intimacy, sexual abuse, sexual violence, eroticism, pornography, deviant sexual behavior, sexual attraction, sexual orientation, or any form of

sexual identity, gender identity, gender ideology, or gender conversion.”<sup>29</sup> These topics go far beyond traditional sex education—and Idaho state law now prevents schools from teaching these topics without first notifying parents and obtaining prior written consent.

One other thing: Idaho state law requires that schools notify parents about upcoming human sexuality instruction no more than one week before each instance takes place.<sup>30</sup> Schools must provide a “brief description of the content” and give you the opportunity to “review any materials that will be used.” The school must also obtain consent no more than one week before the instruction takes place. This means that the school can't obtain blanket consent at the beginning of the school year for all human sexuality instruction that will take place during the year. You must be notified every time before such instruction is provided—and the school must provide you the opportunity to review ahead of time.

**KNOW THE LAW**

**Idaho Code § 33-1611A.** Schools may teach traditional sex education without notifying you or obtaining your consent. But before teaching your children about broader human sexuality topics, they must first notify you and obtain your consent:

*Prior to any child attending instruction that addresses human sexuality as it is specifically and narrowly defined in section 33-1609, Idaho Code, regardless of whether such instruction is offered by regular or guest instructors, the school district offering such instruction shall notify parents and legal guardians of children who are eligible to attend such instruction no less than two (2) weeks before the date that such instruction will begin. The school district shall provide the parent or legal guardian with a brief description of the content of the instruction in human sexuality and such parent or legal guardian shall have the opportunity to review any materials that will be used in the instruction. The school district shall not permit any child to attend such instruction unless the parent or legal guardian of such child submits a signed and written permission form to the board of trustees within one (1) week of the commencement of the instruction granting the school district permission to allow the child to attend the instruction. For any child whose parents do not provide the written permission form provided for in this section, alternative educational instruction that furthers the completion of any grade level or graduation requirements and does not address human sexuality as specifically and narrowly defined in section 33-1609, Idaho Code, shall be provided to such child.*



## ACTION STEP ONE

**Exercise your right to opt your child out of traditional sex education.**

While Idaho law does not require parental opt-in for traditional sex education, Idaho Code § 33-1611 does provide a process for parents to opt their children out of all sex education. This involves filing a written request with the school district board of trustees. For assistance, contact Idaho Family Policy Center at [IdahoFamily.org](http://IdahoFamily.org).

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Notify your local school board every time your child receives instruction in human sexuality without your written consent.**

Under Idaho state law, schools must obtain prior consent before providing instruction in human sexuality. If your child receives human sexuality instruction without your consent, you may either provide the school board with retroactive permission for your child to receive human sexuality instruction or ask the school board for rectification. By choosing rectification, the school board would investigate your complaint and could bring disciplinary action against the school employee that violated the law.

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if you've exhausted all other available remedies and your complaint has still not been adequately rectified.**

You may have a legal claim against the school district.<sup>31</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Idaho law requires public schools to provide notice and obtain written consent from parents before providing instruction to students about sexual intimacy or any form of sexual identity or gender ideology.*







IDAHO FAMILY  
POLICY CENTER

# PART THREE

## *Protecting Your Child's Safety and Dignity*

*“See to it that you don’t despise one of these little ones . . .  
it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones perish.”*

MATTHEW 18:10, 14



Parents instinctively protect their children. We nurture them — seek their best — and ensure their safety from any and all kinds of harm. And we reflect God’s loving care for His children when we care for our own (Psalm 91).

Our parental desire to watch over our kids doesn’t end at the schoolhouse door. And thankfully, Idaho respects the right of parents to keep their children safe.

In the third part of **Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents**, you’ll learn how parents can protect their children’s safety and dignity—whether in a school bathroom, playing field, or even online.

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD IN THE SCHOOL BATHROOM AND LOCKER ROOM

## *Privacy and Safety of Students in Vulnerable Places*

### CHAPTER 67, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE

*Your daughter is in her sophomore year at the public high school. While using the restroom designated for girls, she gets the bad feeling that a biological male is in an adjoining stall. She waits at the door after leaving the restroom to confirm—and sure enough, she soon sees a biologically male classmate exit the girls' bathroom after her. Later, she encounters him in the girls' bathroom again. This time, she reports hearing the male student masturbating in the adjacent bathroom stall.*

The above scenario is a true story from Boise High School, where sophomore Jane Doe<sup>32</sup> encountered the same male student in the girls' restroom on two separate occasions during the 2024-2025 school year. Jane reported the incidents to school administrators, who told her and her parents that the male student had been approved to use the girls' restroom under a "gender support plan" allowed by school policy. Understandably, Jane experienced significant emotional and psychological distress as a result of the encounters. And because of the school administration's failure to protect her privacy and fear of harassment from other students, Jane and her parents ultimately felt there was no other choice but to withdraw her from Boise High School.

But thankfully, Jane and her family were not without recourse. During the 2023 legislative session, Idaho Family Policy Center partnered with Rep. Ted Hill (R-Eagle) and Sen. Ben Adams (R-Nampa) on legislation protecting

the privacy and safety of students in school bathrooms, locker rooms, and changing rooms. Because of that new law, Jane and her parents – represented by the IFPC Legal Center – were able to sue Boise School District for the harm she suffered.<sup>33</sup> Ultimately, Boise School District's insurer paid out a settlement to Jane and her parents—and it appears the school district is no longer following their illegal policy.

Idaho state law also provides an accommodation for a student who, for whatever reason, cannot use the bathroom or changing facility designated for that student's sex. The accommodations exist for students who feel uncomfortable for any reason—not just situations involving gender confusion. However, such accommodation can never "[allow] access to a restroom, changing facility, or sleeping quarter that is designated for use by members of the opposite sex while persons of the opposite sex are present or could be present."<sup>34</sup>

## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 33-6703.** Public schools must maintain separate bathrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, and overnight accommodations for biological males and biological females:

*1) Every public school restroom or changing facility accessible by multiple persons at the same time must be:*

*(a) Designated for use by male persons only or female persons only; and*

*(b) Used only by members of that sex.*

*(2) No person shall enter a multi-occupancy restroom or changing facility that is designated for one sex unless such person is a member of that sex. The public school with authority over the building shall ensure that all restrooms and changing facilities provide its users with privacy from members of the opposite sex.*

*(3) In any other public school setting where a person may be in a state of undress in the presence of others, school personnel must provide separate and private areas designated for use by persons based on their sex, and no person may enter these private areas unless such person is a member of the designated sex.*

*(4) During any school authorized activity or event where persons share overnight lodging, school personnel must provide separate sleeping quarters for members of each sex. No person shall share sleeping quarters, a restroom, or a changing facility with a person of the opposite sex, unless the persons are members of the same family.*





## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Your local public school must protect the privacy and safety of your child in vulnerable places—and you can hold your school accountable if it doesn't.**

## ACTION STEP ONE

**Talk with your child about their privacy and safety while at school.** Help your child understand that the law protects them when using bathrooms or locker rooms. Explain that the school is required to ensure boys use spaces designated for boys and girls use spaces designated for girls. Encourage them to immediately inform you and their teachers if they see a person using the wrong restroom.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Determine your school's policy for providing a reasonable accommodation.** If your child is uncomfortable using community restrooms or showering and changing in shared spaces, you can obtain a reasonable accommodation for them under the law. But remember that the reasonable accommodation cannot consist of providing a student access to a bathroom or changing facility designated for students of the opposite sex while those other students are present.

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if your child encounters a person of the opposite sex in a school bathroom, locker room, changing area, or overnight accommodation.** You may have a legal claim against your child's school.<sup>35</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Every Idaho public school must designate its multi-user restrooms or changing facilities for use by male persons only or female persons only and used only by members of that sex.*

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD IN THE SPORTS ARENA

## *Fairness in Women's Sports*

### CHAPTER 62, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE

*Your daughter is an elite high school track and field athlete—and she dedicates early mornings and late evenings to her training as she reaches for her goal of obtaining a coveted college track and field scholarship. But everything changes when two biological males begin identifying as girls and start competing in the girls' track and field categories. The two male athletes begin winning events and ultimately championship titles—depriving your daughter of the opportunities she's worked so hard to earn.*

This story summarizes the lived experience of Selina Soule, a former high school track and field athlete who ultimately sued the Connecticut Intercollegiate Athletics Conference over its policy allowing men to compete in girls' sports.<sup>36</sup> From 2017–2020, two biologically male athletes stole 15 women's track championship titles that had once been held by nine different girls.



Selina's story served as the inspiration for the first-in-the-nation “Fairness in Women's Sports Act,” an Idaho state law drafted by Alliance Defending Freedom, sponsored by Rep. Barbara Ehardt (R-Idaho Falls), and supported by Idaho Family Policy Center. Unfortunately, that law remained unenforceable for years during litigation over its constitutionality when a biologically male BSU student athlete sued. But on June 30, 2026, the US Supreme Court upheld the law in *Little v. Hecox*, holding that states like Idaho may reserve girls' sports for biological females only.<sup>37</sup>

Because of the *Hecox* decision, our “Fairness in Women's Sports Act” now protects fair competition for your children. Biological males possess many physiological advantages over biological females—including greater aerobic capacity, bone density, and muscle mass, as well as other mechanical differences. Female athletes no longer need to fear losing their opportunities to qualify for sports teams, safely compete, or win scholarships, and male athletes no longer need to fear hurting a biological girl who competes in the men's league.



## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 33-6203.** The “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act” ensures that public school and college sport categories are separated by biological sex and that student athletes perform in the category that matches their biological sex:

*(1) Interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by a public primary or secondary school, a public institution of higher education, or any school or institution whose students or teams compete against a public school or institution of higher education shall be expressly designated as one (1) of the following based on biological sex:*

- (a) Males, men, or boys;*
- (b) Females, women, or girls; or*
- (c) Coed or mixed.*

*(2) Athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to students of the male sex.*



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Female student athletes deserve fair and safe competition—and that means they should never be forced to compete against biologically male athletes.



## ACTION STEP ONE

**Dispute a student athlete's biological sex when you believe that student athlete is competing in the wrong athletics category.** The Idaho State Board of Education has recently issued a temporary administrative rule outlining the policies for disputing or verifying student eligibility based on biological sex.<sup>38</sup>

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if your child competes against someone of the opposite biological sex.** Your child may have a legal claim against the school if your child loses athletic opportunities to a person of the other biological sex, competes against a person of the other biological sex, or experiences retaliation for reporting violations of the law.<sup>39</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Athletic teams or sports sponsored by public schools or colleges in Idaho that are designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to students of the male sex.*



# PROTECT YOUR CHILD IN THE CLASSROOM

## *Parental Observation of Classroom Instruction*

### IDAHO CODE § 33-6001(9)

*Your middle school student is very bright and is quickly placed into the gifted class. You couldn't be prouder. But then you hear that your child is having a difficult time adjusting. You hope to sit in a couple classes to understand why. After asking to observe the class, you hear back from the teacher: "School administration said that parents aren't allowed to sit in class. I'm sorry."*

Sen. Lori Den Hartog (R-Meridian) recounted this true story – which had been shared by one of her constituents – during a committee hearing on legislation intended to ensure that parents can observe their children's classroom.<sup>40</sup> At that time, many Idaho school districts simply refused to let parents sit in during the school day.

Since then, Idaho legislators adopted legislation protecting the right of parents to observe the classroom setting and see firsthand both teacher instruction and classroom behavior. Parents now have the ability to oversee, monitor, and directly interact with every aspect of their children's education.



### KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 33-6001(9).** Idaho state law guarantees every parent the opportunity to access and observe their child's activities at school:

*A parent or legal guardian of a child enrolled in an Idaho public school shall have reasonable access to observe all school activities during school hours in which the child is enrolled, except for those who are otherwise legally prohibited. Observations of individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted with the principal's and teacher's pre-approval. Visits shall not be permitted if their occurrence, duration, frequency, or conduct on campus interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment.*



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

No one cares more about what happens to your children in school than you do—and you have the right to observe your children's learning environments firsthand.

## ACTION STEP ONE

**Take advantage of your right to access and observe your children's school day activities.** Idaho state law guarantees your access to ALL of your children's activities during school hours. While classroom visits do require approval by the principal and your children's classroom teacher, it's important to note that you can't be denied access to the classroom itself. Your visit just can't be disruptive or interfere with the teacher's instruction.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if you are denied the opportunity to observe.** Idaho state law provides you the right to file a complaint with your school if it creates barriers to stop you from accessing your children's school day activities.<sup>41</sup> If the complaint is not remedied by the school, you may have a legal claim to stop the school from violating your rights.<sup>42</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*“A parent or legal guardian of a child enrolled in an Idaho public school shall have reasonable access to observe all school activities during school hours in which the child is enrolled...”*

IDAHO CODE § 33-6001(9)

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION

## *Parental Controls for Social Media Usage*

### CHAPTER 21, TITLE 48, IDAHO CODE

*Your high school junior has a pretty big course load this year. You've talked with him about priorities, especially the need to prioritize his homework and his afterschool job. But one thing has you worried about his success—his phone. Like many parents, you're concerned about the amount of time your teen child spends on his screen, including while at school. And while you've done your best to set boundaries, you've found it difficult to get your son off of his social media platforms.*

Navigating the brave new world of the Internet Age can be difficult—especially for parents with teenagers. Thankfully, a new state law in Idaho – called the “Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media Act” – puts parents back in control of their children's social media consumption.

Under the “Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media Act,” social media companies must estimate the age of account holders.<sup>43</sup> If a social media company determines that the account holder is under the age of 16, they must restrict the account—waiting for a parent to reactivate their child's account.<sup>44</sup> Additionally, children's accounts must be linked to a parent account with the parental controls enabled.

It's important to note that not all social media platforms are impacted by the new law, which applies only to social media companies that have generated at least one billion dollars in advertising revenues worldwide in one or

more of the preceding three years.<sup>45</sup> Although this definition may not include some smaller or newer social media platforms, it does include major social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and X. The new law also specifically excludes more general internet services (e.g. search engines, direct messaging, email, etc.) from falling under the scope of its requirements.<sup>46</sup>

The “Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media Act” provides parents with tools to better oversee their children's social media usage, but it's not an excuse for parents to ignore their children's online activity. Social media can be a dangerous place for children. Children often find workarounds to parental controls, and statistics prove that children regularly encounter bad actors and harmful material online, even when parents impose time limits and activate parental controls. As a parent, you must make monitoring your children's internet activity a top priority.

**KNOW THE LAW**

**Idaho Code § 48-2104.** The “Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media Act” imposes strict requirements for social media companies whenever they allow minor account holders on their platforms:

- (1) (a) A covered social media platform shall require applicants for an account to provide the applicant's birth date as part of the account application process.*
- (b) A covered social media platform shall not create or maintain an account for a child or change the terms and conditions of an account for a child without first obtaining verifiable parental consent...*
- (2) (a) An account for a child shall have all privacy settings set by default at the most private levels...*
- (3) A covered social media platform shall not present addictive interface features [including infinite scrolling, display of a profile-based feed, push notifications, auto-play video, display of personal metrics, and display of awards] in the display or feed of any child.*
- (4) A covered social media platform shall not present profile-based paid commercial advertising in the display or feed of any child.*
- (5) A covered social media platform has a continuing obligation to terminate an account if the covered social media platform concludes, or obtains information from which it reasonably should conclude, pursuant to its obligations under section 48-2103, Idaho Code, that the account holder is a child, unless verifiable parental consent has been obtained for such account...*





## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Big Tech companies must protect your child from addictive social media features—and Idaho law gives you the power to make sure that happens.



## ACTION STEP ONE

**Monitor your child's social media usage.** Parents must be vigilant in protecting their children from addictive social media use. Under the “Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media Act,” social media companies must give you the option of being able to monitor your child's account usage and to set parameters on when your child can use the account and for how long.<sup>47</sup> For assistance, contact Idaho Family Policy Center at [IdahoFamily.org](http://IdahoFamily.org).

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Terminate your child's social media account.** Under the “Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media Act,” social media companies must terminate your child's account within 14 days of your request to do so.<sup>48</sup> For assistance, contact Idaho Family Policy Center at [IdahoFamily.org](http://IdahoFamily.org).

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if a social media company refuses to allow you to monitor your child's social media usage or ignores your requests to terminate your child's account.** Under the “Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media Act,” you may have a legal claim against a social media company. You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Big social media companies doing business in Idaho have a legal duty to restrict children's access to the addictive features of their products and to partner with parents in keeping kids safe.*

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM INTERNET EXPLOITATION

## *Taking Down Exploitative Sexual Images*

### 47 U.S. CODE § 223A

*Your fourteen-year-old daughter is a ray of sunshine—quick to greet someone with a grin and always so outgoing. But a few months into her freshman year of high school, she starts withdrawing. She stops hanging out with her friends. She takes to locking herself in her room for hours at a time. And worst of all, she no longer smiles. One afternoon, you ask her about what's going on. She breaks down crying and tells you that a couple boys in her class used AI to undress her and then sent the nude images to other classmates in social media group chats. And it's been going on for months.*

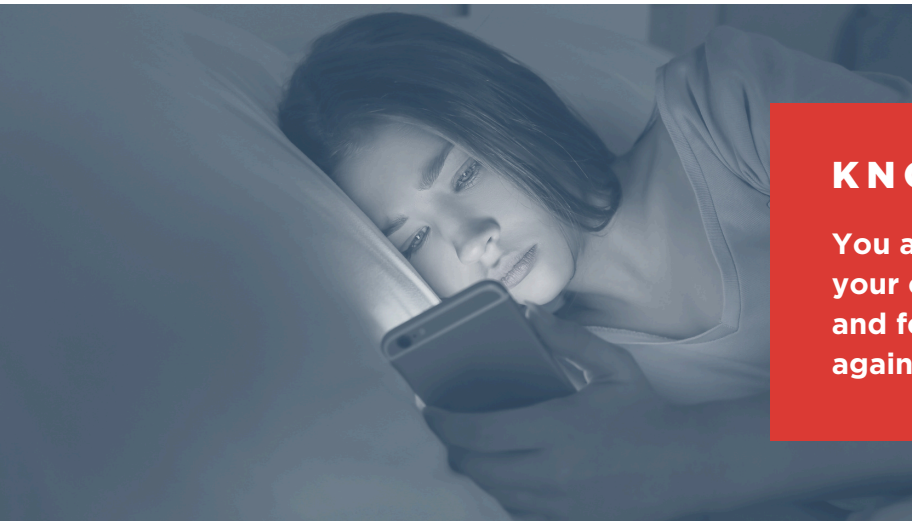
Rapidly advancing artificial intelligence technologies have made it easier than ever to generate lewd deepfakes or revenge porn—opening the door for children to be victimized in ways that parents have a hard time imagining. According to a 2024 study, an astonishing 2.3 million high school students nationwide knew about AI-generated sexually explicit deepfakes of a fellow student being circulated or uploaded to social media.<sup>49</sup> And with continued developments in the availability and capabilities of artificial intelligence programs, the issue will only become more common in coming years.

But there's good news: Thanks to a new federal law called the “Take it Down Act,” parents can intervene to protect their children from the damaging effects of exploitative images—whether AI-generated or not.

### KNOW THE LAW

**47 U.S.C. § 223a.** Here's how the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) summarizes the “Take it Down Act”:

*The TAKE IT DOWN Act criminalizes the publication of nonconsensual intimate visual depictions. It also requires covered platforms to: (1) create a process for consumers to notify covered platforms of a nonconsensual intimate visual depiction on the platform; and (2) remove such depictions within 48 hours of receiving notice. The FTC is charged with enforcing this notice and removal process.<sup>50</sup>*



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**You are the most important line of defense for your children against online sexual exploitation—and federal law has given you tools to fight back against bad actors.**

## ACTION STEP ONE

**Read the FTC's "Take it Down" toolkit.** The FTC has put together a toolkit providing guidance for parents. You can access the toolkit at [consumer.ftc.gov/features/takeitdownftcgov-social-media-toolkit](https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/takeitdownftcgov-social-media-toolkit).

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Report the sexually explicit visual depiction of your child to the social media platform.** Before the FTC can get involved in the process, you or your child must ask the social media platform to remove the intimate image. The FTC has provided detailed information on how to make such a request. See [takeitdown.ftc.gov/faqs#how-request-removal](https://takeitdown.ftc.gov/faqs#how-request-removal).

## ACTION STEP THREE

**File a report with the FTC if the social media platform does not respond within 48 hours.** The FTC has created a designated website so you can report platforms that do not comply with the law. While the FTC does not have the power to take the image down, it does have the statutory authority to hold social media platforms accountable when they violate the law. Learn more or report a violation at [takeitdown.ftc.gov](https://takeitdown.ftc.gov).

*"Upon receiving a valid removal request from an identifiable individual (or an authorized person acting on behalf of such individual) ... a covered platform shall, as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours after receiving such request, remove the intimate visual depiction; and make reasonable efforts to identify and remove any known identical copies of such depiction."*

47 U.S.C. § 223A(3)



# PART FOUR

## *Protecting Your Child's Health and Wellbeing*

*“One of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet and begged him earnestly, ‘My little daughter is dying. Come and lay your hands on her so that she can get well and live.’”*

MARK 5:22-23



The Gospels recount story after story of parents coming to Jesus as they seek the physical and mental healing of their children. While these stories certainly demonstrate the authority that Jesus possesses over sickness, these stories also illustrate the important principle that parents are the primary advocates for the health and wellbeing of their children. Parents care more about seeing their children thrive than any other person—and no one loves your kiddos more than you.

In the fourth part of **Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents**, you'll learn how you can stay involved in your children's medical care—even when your child is at school.



# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM INVASIVE STUDENT SURVEYS

## *Student Surveys, Questionnaires, and Screenings*

**IDAHO CODE § 33-6001(8) AND 20 U.S.C. § 1232H**

*Your high school daughter arrives home from school, bothered by a survey that was circulated to every student in her class. The survey, which was not a part of the class curriculum, included questions asking students to give their preferred pronouns and to identify their sexual orientation from a list of nearly thirty options. You don't want her answering the questions—but she's afraid that if she doesn't, her grades will suffer.*

The situation described above took place in Idaho Falls a few years ago.<sup>51</sup> The student's mother was able to talk with school staff and get the survey removed from the class. But unfortunately, the survey had already been distributed to the students, causing real anxiety for the high school girl and her mother.

Both Idaho and federal law address this kind of situation—ensuring that parents have the opportunity to consent to surveys that touch on sensitive personal topics.

Idaho state law requires parental consent for any survey, questionnaire, or screening that addresses student sexuality, religion, personal political beliefs, psychological problems, personal family information, or financial information. However, it's important to note that some surveys don't require parental consent. For example, a survey asking for details related to a class event (like a field trip) would likely only require the approval of the school's superintendent. It's only when the

survey delves into specific personal or family details on particular topics that the school must obtain parental consent.

Similarly, a federal law known as the “Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment” (PPRA) also protects the right of parents to be notified and give consent before a “protected information survey” is administered to their children. This federal parental consent requirement is triggered if a survey contains questions about particular types of sensitive information regarding the student or family.<sup>52</sup>



## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 33-6001(8).** Idaho state law prohibits the administration of student surveys touching on sensitive issues – such as a student's sexuality, religious or political beliefs, or mental health problems – without parental permission:

*Before any public school employee administers any noncurricular-related student survey, well-being questionnaire, or health screening to any student, the employee must first obtain consent from the school's superintendent or designee. If the content of any such survey, questionnaire, or screening regards an individual student's sexuality, sex, religion, personal political beliefs, mental or psychological problems, personal family information, or individual or family financial information, the public school shall provide the survey, questionnaire, or screening form to the student's parent or legal guardian in advance and obtain the permission of the parent or legal guardian.*

**20 U.S.C. § 1232h.** The federal "Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment" (PPRA) requires schools obtain prior written consent before administering a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals the following information:

- (1) political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;*
- (2) mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;*
- (3) sex behavior or attitudes;*
- (4) illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;*
- (5) critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;*
- (6) legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;*
- (7) religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or*
- (8) income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).*

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Public school employees shouldn't be probing into your child's personal, familial, or mental health matters without your permission.



## ACTION STEP ONE

**Review and respond to any requests you receive regarding a student survey.**

Idaho state law stops public schools from administering a survey, questionnaire, or screening to your child without your prior consent. Make sure you exercise your authority to review and respond when survey requests arrive.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**File a complaint with the US Department of Education.** Parents whose children are given surveys, questionnaires, or screenings in violation of the PPRA have the right to file a formal complaint with the Student Privacy Policy Office. For more information or to file a complaint, visit [studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint).

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if a school circulates restricted surveys, questionnaires, or screenings without first receiving parental consent.** Idaho state law provides you with a right to file a complaint with your school. If the complaint is not remedied by the school, you may have a legal claim to stop the school from violating your rights. You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*Public school employees cannot ask a student questions about sexuality, mental health, personal religious or political beliefs, or family affairs without a parent's permission.*

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM UNAUTHORIZED MEDICAL PROCEDURES

## *Immunizations and Medical Decision-Making*

**IDAHO CODE § 32-1015; § 39-4804; AND § 73-503**

*Your son – a high school freshman – is on the school football team. One of his teammates misses three practices in a row—then word gets out that the absent teammate is at home with COVID-19. School officials determine that your son may have been exposed to the virus and that he must be tested before he can continue team activities. Your husband has some time available the next day, so he takes your son to a testing clinic set up on school property and sends your child in to get tested. While your son is in the clinic, he is given the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine against his will—and without permission from you or your husband.*

Although this incident occurred in North Carolina, students across the country experience similar situations all too often.<sup>53</sup> But thankfully, Idaho state law protects the right of parents to make medical decisions for their children—including decisions about vaccines.

Under the “Parental Rights in Medical Decision-Making” state law, health care providers – including school medical staff – must obtain parental consent before providing health care services to children. This includes routine care like eye exams or hearing tests—but it also includes sports physicals or sexual health services. Notably, the parental consent requirement does not apply when health care services are necessary to prevent death or serious bodily harm to a child. It also does not apply to “non-emergency first aid services” like providing bandaids, dressing minor wounds, or applying topical agents.<sup>54</sup>

Some Idaho school districts distribute “blanket consent forms” at the beginning of each

school year. While these forms are allowed under the “Parental Rights in Medical Decision-Making” law, there are strict guidelines. For example, the “Parental Rights in Medical Decision-Making” law requires school districts to clearly indicate that granting blanket consent is optional and that you as a parent have the ability to withdraw your consent. If you’ve already granted blanket consent for the school to provide medical care to your children, you can still revoke your consent at any time.

Other Idaho state laws also protect the right of parents to make medical decisions for their children without affecting school enrollment status. The “Idaho Medical Freedom Act” bars schools from mandating medical interventions for students to attend school or enter school facilities.<sup>55</sup> Additionally, the Idaho immunization law expressly specifies that “immunizations are not mandatory,” including for school registration.<sup>56</sup> Put simply: schools can’t force your children to get vaccines.





## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 32-1015.** State law prevents school employees or others from providing health care services to minors without consent from their parents:

*(2) Parents who have legal custody of any minor child have the fundamental right and duty to make decisions concerning the furnishing of health care services to the minor child.*

*(3) Except as otherwise provided by this section or court order, an individual, health care provider, or governmental entity shall not furnish a health care service or solicit to furnish a health care service to a minor child without obtaining the informed consent of the minor child's parent.*



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

God has given you the right to make decisions on how to best provide care to your children—and your right to make medical decisions is protected by Idaho state law.

## ACTION STEP ONE

**Refuse to grant blanket consent.** Be aware that Idaho state law allows schools to issue “blanket consent forms” to parents. But if you provide blanket consent, you give school officials nearly unchecked authority over your children’s medical care. Instead, give consent on a case-by-case basis. This ensures that school officials don’t provide care to your children without express permission. And even if you’ve signed a blanket consent form before, don’t worry—you can still revoke your blanket consent at any time.<sup>57</sup>

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if your child receives health care services at school without your consent.** You may have a legal claim against the individual or school that violated your rights.<sup>58</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*“Parents who have legal custody of any minor child have the fundamental right and duty to make decisions concerning the furnishing of health care services to the minor child.”*

# ENSURE YOUR RIGHT TO ACCESS YOUR CHILD'S RECORDS

## *Parental Access to Student Academic and Health Records*

**IDAHO CODE § 33-6001(3) AND 20 U.S.C. § 1232G**

*It's hard to believe that your twelve-year-old son is already in middle school. You're glad that he seems to be adjusting to the more demanding academic requirements of the sixth grade—especially because he's autistic, has an IQ in the bottom percentile, and is legally disabled. You've always monitored his academic progress. This year is no exception, so you send the school a detailed list of his academic records that you want to review. But after the school provides the records, you start to notice some gaps in the files. You cross-check the records you received with the list that you requested and find that the school withheld over twenty records. You're left wondering: what else aren't they telling you?*

This true story occurred to a Pennsylvania family that wanted to remain more involved in the education of their special needs son, and now they're tied up in the courts—trying to get things sorted.<sup>59</sup> But here in Idaho, parents have the right to access their children's school records. The state "Parental Rights in Education" law prevents schools from withholding student records when requested by parents.<sup>60</sup> Schools have five days to provide the records after the request is made. The only exception is when the requested documents relate to physical abuse, abandonment, or neglect by the parent or guardian.<sup>61</sup>

Additionally, a federal law called the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act" (FERPA) requires federally funded schools to provide parents with an opportunity to inspect student

educational records.<sup>62</sup> Schools have 45 days to accommodate the request.<sup>63</sup> Schools cannot charge a fee to inspect records, but they may charge a copying fee if appropriate.<sup>64</sup> FERPA also gives parents the ability to request corrections to records containing inaccurate information.<sup>65</sup> Public educational institutions that violate FERPA are subject to investigation by the US Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office, which works with the US Department of Justice to ensure that FERPA is enforced.<sup>66</sup>

Neither of these laws specify exactly how public schools must provide parents with copies of their student's records (i.e. inspection, printed copies, or electronic access). But schools must provide the parent access to the records upon request.



## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 33-6001(3).** Idaho state law provides parents the right to access their children's school records:

*(3) A policy shall not prohibit parents or legal guardians from accessing any of their children's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the public school unless such documentation relates to physical abuse, abandonment, or neglect by the parent or legal guardian. Unless a timeline is otherwise delineated in a specific applicable state or federal law, records shall be provided to the parent or legal guardian within five (5) school days after a request to access such records is made.*





## ACTION STEP ONE

**Access your child's educational and health records.** Contact your school administrators to find the process for making your request.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**File a complaint with the school district.** If the school refuses to give you access to your children's records for more than five days in violation of Idaho Code § 33-6001(3), you can file a complaint with the school.<sup>67</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if your complaint with the school is not adequately remedied.** You may have a legal claim to stop the school from violating your rights.<sup>68</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

## ACTION STEP FOUR

**File a complaint with the Student Privacy Policy Office.** If the school refuses to give you access to your children's records for more than 45 days in violation of FERPA, you can file a complaint against your school with the Student Privacy Policy Office in the US Department of Education. Learn more at [studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint).

*Idaho public schools can't prohibit parents from accessing any of their children's education or health records.*

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM SECRET TRANSITIONS

## *Secretive Transitions in Public Schools*

### **IDAHO CODE § 32-1016 AND § 67-5909B(3)(A)**

*Your ten-year old daughter has been struggling ever since her dad – an Army soldier – tragically died from injuries he sustained while serving in Afghanistan. But nothing could have prepared you for when she comes home from school one day and explains that her school counselor and principal have been encouraging her to live as a boy! Not only have they secretly transitioned her social identity at school, but they’ve even coached her on how to conceal her new gender identity from you.*

This is a true story—experienced by a family with a daughter who attended Northwest Expedition Academy in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.<sup>69</sup> Other parents have likewise experienced school officials secretly transitioning their children in Idaho public schools.<sup>70</sup> And although Idaho banned sex change drugs and surgeries for minor children in the “Vulnerable Child Protection Act” drafted and championed by Idaho Family Policy Center, some children still “socially transition” by using names and preferred pronouns different from their biological sex.

In 2026, Idaho legislators – led by Rep. Bruce Skaug (R-Nampa) and Sen. Ben Toews (R-Coeur d’Alene) – adopted the “Pediatric Secretive Transitions Parental Rights Act.” The law ensures that parents are not kept in the dark about their children’s gender identity by requiring covered entities (such as schools, daycares, and healthcare providers) to notify parents within 72 hours of receiving a request

from a minor to be called by another name, use different preferred pronouns, or identify as the other sex. It also requires the covered entities to obtain parental consent before permitting the child to socially transition in these ways, and it prevents covered entities from encouraging children to seek sex change drugs or surgeries.

Parents are the authority figures in the lives of their children. But many education leaders disagree. Take the National Education Association as one example, whose “gender inclusive policies” instruct teachers to “respect” students’ preferred names and pronouns and keep those choices “confidential,” even when parents are “unsupportive.”<sup>71</sup> Thankfully, the “Pediatric Secretive Transitions Parental Rights Act” stops bad actors that would secretly transition children and empowers parents to hold those bad actors accountable.<sup>72</sup>

## KNOW THE LAW

**Idaho Code § 32-1016.** The “Pediatric Secretive Transitions Parental Rights Act” stops covered entities like schools, child care providers, and healthcare providers from socially transitioning children behind the backs of their parents:

*(5) A covered entity shall not withhold information from a child's parent or guardian related to the parent's child's expressed interest in or desire for sex transition procedures.*

*(6) A covered entity shall notify a minor student's parent within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving any request by the minor student to participate in or facilitate the social transition of the minor student, including any request by the minor student to:*

*(a) Be referred to by pronouns or titles that do not correspond to the minor student's biological sex;*

*(b) Be referred to using names other than the minor student's legal name, or a nickname or derivative thereof, either in school records or otherwise;*

*(c) Use restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms, or overnight lodging designated for the opposite biological sex; or*

*(d) Participate on an athletic team or any other sex-separated school activity designated for the opposite sex.*

*(7) A covered entity shall not aid or abet a child's efforts to socially transition without first obtaining written consent from the child's parent. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or permit the use of public funds, public property, or the time or services of public employees to aid or abet a child's efforts to socially transition.*

*(8) A covered entity shall not aid or abet a child's efforts to obtain sex transition procedures.*



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**There is no reason why a school employee should ever treat students inconsistently with their biological sex—and parents can make sure that they don't.**

## ACTION STEP ONE

**Ensure your school district complies with notification and consent requirements before socially transitioning students.** Ask school administrators for policies pertaining to the “Pediatric Secretive Transitions Parental Rights Act” (Idaho Code § 32-1016). For assistance, contact Idaho Family Policy Center at [IdahoFamily.org](http://IdahoFamily.org).

## ACTION STEP TWO

**Monitor communication between your children and their schools.** In a recent court case out of Michigan, one family did not know that their daughter had been socially transitioned at school until they noticed school paperwork using a masculine version of her name.<sup>73</sup> Pay attention to student records, homework assignments, and other school communication.

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if a school fails to notify you about your child's request to socially transition or assists your child in socially transitioning without your consent.** You may have a legal claim against the school.<sup>74</sup> You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

*“It is the intent of the legislature to prohibit any health care provider or educational institution from facilitating a pediatric sex transition or social transition without informing and obtaining informed consent from a minor child's parents or guardians.”*

PEDIATRIC SECRETIVE TRANSITIONS PARENTAL RIGHTS ACT





# PART FIVE

## *Taking Charge of Your Child's Education*

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

PROVERBS 22:6, ESV



Founding father Samuel Adams expressed the importance of providing children with a biblical education. He called on pastors, policymakers, and patriots to “unite their endeavors” toward educating children in “the fear and love of the Deity” and “the art of self-government.” And he summarized the primary purpose of education as instructing children “in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system.”

For many parents, this means pursuing alternatives to public schools. In the final part of **Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents**, you'll learn how you can reclaim control of every aspect of your child's education—and answer Adams' call to train your children to become biblical citizens.

# TAKE TOTAL CHARGE OF YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

## *Opting Out of the Public School System*

**Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents** is designed to put you back in control of your children's education—and no educational solution gives you as much control over what your children are learning as homeschooling. The good news is that Idaho has long had some of the most homeschool friendly laws in the nation, giving parents authority over what and how their children learn.

Homeschooling can be a great choice for many families. God has commissioned parents with the biblical duty to educate their children on matters of morality and worldview.<sup>75</sup> Homeschooling allows many parents to faithfully fulfill this charge. And with so many resources now available for homeschooling families – from homeschool support groups to rigorous homeschool curriculum and lesson plans – it's never been easier.

That said, it's not practical for every family to homeschool. At the end of the day, some parents may choose to delegate the education of their children to more formal educational institutions. For those families who choose not to homeschool, Idaho has plenty of other educational opportunities beyond traditional public schools. Whether it's a public charter school, or a private Christian school, Idaho law supports parents in choosing schools that are the best fit for their families.

The educational freedom that we enjoy in Idaho is something to celebrate—and it's something we need to defend. Government bureaucrats should never dictate how we educate our children. Always remember: Parents are ultimately responsible to “train up a child in the way he should go,” trusting that “even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6, ESV).



### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**You have the right to choose how your child is educated, whether publicly or privately—and no government bureaucrat can stop you.**

## ACTION STEP ONE

**Homeschool your child.** No one cares more about your child's education than you—and no one knows your child better than you. Many families choose to homeschool so they can inculcate a biblical worldview and build education around their children's needs, learning styles, and interests.

## ACTION STEP TWO

**If you choose to disenroll your child from public school during the school year, provide formal notice to your child's school.** Although Idaho law does not require you to provide notice that you intend to homeschool, it's still best to send written communication to school staff informing them of your decision to withdraw your children and educate them at home. You can learn more at [HomeschoolIdaho.org/idaho-homeschool-law](http://HomeschoolIdaho.org/idaho-homeschool-law).

## ACTION STEP THREE

**Contact the IFPC Legal Center if you experience any difficulty in withdrawing your child from a public school.** Under Idaho state law, a school cannot hinder you from seeking alternative education opportunities. You can get help by visiting [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](http://IdahoFamily.org/Legal).

## ACTION STEP FOUR

**Become a member with a homeschool association.** We recommend getting involved with Home School Legal Defense Association ([HSLDA.org](http://HSLDA.org)), a national homeschool advocacy group, and the affiliated state organization Homeschool Idaho ([HomeschoolIdaho.org](http://HomeschoolIdaho.org)). Both organizations have detailed resources to help you succeed at homeschooling your children and comply with Idaho homeschool laws.

*The Idaho Constitution guarantees parents the ability to direct the education of their children—either by enrollment in a local public school, or by other means of education, including private instruction.*







### — ABOUT IFPC —

*Idaho Family Policy Center is a ministry that advances the lordship of Christ in the public square through engaging the church, promoting God-honoring public policy, and training statesmen.*

*As the premier conservative Christian policy research and educational organization in the state, IFPC is working to promote biblically sound public policy that protects the sanctity of life, safeguards religious freedom, strengthens parental rights, recognizes biblical truths in sexuality and gender, and stimulates economic opportunity.*

*Only the gospel can transform the culture, but the Great Commission involves a cultural mandate to prophetically point people back to God's good design by teaching the nations to obey everything Jesus has commanded. IFPC engages the church, discipling Christians in biblical worldview so that they can stand winsomely for truth and make a positive impact for God's kingdom in their communities.*

*A member of the nationwide family policy council movement, IFPC works closely with an alliance of pro-family groups in other states, as well as national groups including Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, Family Policy Alliance, and Alliance Defending Freedom.*

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### **Blaine Konzatti, President**

*Blaine has established a proven track record of achievements in the family policy movement—leading the charge to get the Heartbeat bill, school bathroom protections, and the Vulnerable Child Protection Act enacted into Idaho law.*

*When he was nineteen years old, Blaine first encountered the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and subsequently left a career as an aspiring rock and jazz musician so he could study theology, government, and economics at Liberty University. Blaine soon learned that God's truth impacts every area of life, and he quickly developed a passion for helping Christians fulfill the cultural commission to advocate these biblical truths in the public square.*

*Blaine has since earned a Juris Master (J.M.) from Liberty University School of Law. He and his wife, Anna, enjoy raising their family in the beautiful Treasure Valley.*



### **Joel Fischer, Policy Director**

*Joel is passionate about advancing God's design in the culture by engaging with civil authorities for the sake of the gospel. A licensed attorney, Joel also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Juris Doctor (J.D.), and is currently completing a Doctorate in Public Policy (Ph.D). Before coming to IFPC, Joel worked in the legal, policy, and educational arenas for over ten years.*

*Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Joel and his wife Mikaela lived in Maryland for over a decade before moving with their five children to the Boise area. Aside from being a political junkie, Joel enjoys exploring local history, making music, reading stories to his kids, and eating ambrosia salad.*



### **Edward Clark, Policy Analyst**

*Edward joined the IFPC policy team in 2024 and made an immediate impact, being quickly promoted to the position of policy analyst. Since joining the team, Edward has sought to fulfill the command of Christ to protect and help the most vulnerable members of society.*

*He has worked with lawmakers at both the state and federal levels—analyzing and helping to draft legislation protecting the privacy and safety of women in bathrooms and locker rooms, ensuring the religious freedom of business owners, preventing the sexualization of children, and prohibiting taxpayer-subsidized sex change procedures. Edward specializes in policy that protects children from pornography and sexual exploitation.*



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*DISCLAIMER: This resource is not intended to give legal advice about any particular situation, nor is it intended to provide an opinion on the merits of any legal claim. If you have questions regarding potential violations of your rights or the rights of your child, you should consult an attorney. If you need help finding an attorney to assist you with these issues, you can contact the IFPC Legal Center at [IdahoFamily.org/Legal](https://IdahoFamily.org/Legal). Please note that contacting the Legal Center does not guarantee representation or referral.*

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# PARENTS:

*It's time to take charge of your children's education.*

God has made parents – not government bureaucrats – the ultimate authority in the lives of their children. He's entrusted your children to you—with the biblical promise that if you train up a child in the way he should go, then even when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). And parents will give an account for how they stewarded the responsibility that God has given them.

Here's the good news: We're blessed to live in a state that champions parental rights. In fact, Idaho policymakers have taken significant steps to protect the legal rights of parents, from public school classrooms to school health centers. You are the first line of defense for your children—and all the tools you need to protect them already exist. But what good is having these rights if you aren't taking steps to exercise them?

**Back to School in Idaho: A Handbook for Parents** will equip you to protect your children under both state and federal law. Inside these pages, we highlight fifteen problems that your family might encounter during the school year—providing real world examples and giving you clear action steps for when your rights are violated.

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