


Back to School: Parental Check List

***Parents, grandparents, and concerned taxpayers take notice!
As your children start off a new school year, take time to get to know
what's going on in your local public schools.***

Your local public schools are supposed to be places where young minds are taught the basics — reading, writing, and arithmetic. But, increasingly, they are becoming institutions where liberal social engineering agendas, designed to desensitize our children to the truths found in traditional values, are being implemented.

Today, more than ever, parents must take to heart their God-given job to guide their child's education and moral training.

 **The following checklist may prove to be very helpful as you prepare your family to return to school:**

- Find out what clubs your child joins or what club meetings they attend. Research the clubs that are offered at your child's school by calling the school administration and exploring your school's website.
- Find out who will be speaking at school assemblies. Organizations such as GLSEN are often invited by school administrators to speak at these all-school gatherings without any warning, leaving parents without even an opportunity to opt their child out of the assembly. Ask your principal to advise you of any such assemblies in advance.
- Inquire about fine arts assemblies. Schools often invite outside theater organizations to perform skits, many of which include controversial or offensive content.
- Volunteer at your local school. Attend school functions. Get to know the teachers and administrators so you can work more effectively with them to further your child's education.
- Talk with your child to find out what is going on in the classroom. Ask your child specifically if these issues are being addressed during class time. Find out if teachers in your school are actively pushing the homosexual agenda. Schools have no right to actively attack your family's religious beliefs.
- Find out if your school has an "opt in" or an "opt out" policy. Will they notify you and ask consent before your child is exposed to sexual or other controversial subject matters in class?
- Opt Out! Write a letter to your school principal and your child's teacher explaining your wish that your child not be exposed to any material that addresses sexual orientation or sexual identity or any sex-education messages in the classroom.
- Find out if your school has a student newspaper and subscribe to it. There are often announcements in student newspapers concerning controversial matters on campus, such a gay-lesbian club activities, etc.

- Find out if your school has a policy that allows minor students to leave campus for confidential medical treatment without notifying the parents. IFI has information on how you can take this matter to your school board and attempt to have the policy changed to a parent-friendly policy.
- Find out if the school authorizes or conducts any “gay” oriented programs such as a “Gay Day of Silence.” Many parents have been successful in stopping these from happening in advance. Contact IFI if you want more information.
- Ask your child if any of their teachers discuss “social justice” which is an ideology that includes non-normative views on sexual orientation and sexual identity.
- Do teachers use the terms “heterosexist” and “homophobia” which imply a denigration of traditional views of homosexuality? Teach your child how to respond to the myths taught in public schools that contradict your values, such as the homosexual agenda, evolution science, etc.
- Scan textbooks, workbooks, teaching materials, and classroom handouts to ensure that your children are being taught in accordance with your values.
 - ✓ Is it anti-parent? (Parents are ignorant, old-fashioned)
 - ✓ Does it instruct students to keep secrets from the parent?
 - ✓ Does it encourage a negative view of the child, his family, his country, or his future?
 - ✓ Is it preoccupied with death, tragedy, hate, anger, revenge etc.? (e.g. e.g. does it require the student to write his own epitaph.)
 - ✓ Is it anti-religion? Does it lead the student to reject morals and values taught at home or church?
 - ✓ Does it suggest that there are no absolute standards? (morality is relative and depends on the situation.)
 - ✓ Does it encourage experimentation with sex, alcohol, or drugs?
 - ✓ Does it exclude all knowledge of the importance of religion in American history?
 - ✓ Does it ask the student, for example, if it is okay to lie, cheat, steal, kill, have sex outside of marriage, have an abortion, or commit suicide in hypothetical situations?
 - ✓ Does it ask students to answer invasive questions about their family’s private attitudes, behaviors, customs, or political views?
 - ✓ Does it blur traditional concepts of gender identity and lead students to accept feminist notions?
- **If you have any questions about your rights (and responsibilities) as a parent or guardian, contact IFI’s School Issues Advisor, Lora Sue Hauser at school@illinoisfamily.org.**

