

Parent Rights to Academic Accommodations

Meaning of “reasonably accommodate”—

As used in this policy, “reasonably accommodate” means that a school shall make its best effort to enable a parent to exercise a right identified in this policy (1) without substantial impact to staff and resources, including employee working conditions, safety and supervision on school premises and for school activities, and the efficient allocation of expenditures; and (2) while balancing (a) parental rights, (b) the educational needs of other students, (c) academic and behavioral impacts to a classroom, (d) teacher workload, and (e) the need to assure safe and efficient school operation. In determining whether a parental request will be accommodated in a particular instance, each of the above-listed factors should be considered.

Utah Code § 53A-15-1501(2) (2014)

Parent rights to academic accommodations—

The District recognizes that a student’s parent or guardian is the primary person responsible for the education of the student, and the state is in a secondary and supportive role to the parent or guardian. As such, a student’s parent or guardian has the right to reasonable academic accommodations from the student’s school as specified in this policy. The listing of rights in this policy is not meant to be exhaustive, and a student’s parent or guardian, as a user of the public education system, may have other rights or be entitled to other accommodations. Whether under this policy or otherwise, each requested accommodation shall be considered on an individual basis and no student shall be considered to a greater or lesser degree than any other student.

Utah Code § 53A-15-1503(1) (2014)

Academic accommodations—

Each school in the District shall reasonably accommodate the request of a student’s parent or guardian:

1. made in writing to retain a student on grade level based on the student’s academic ability or social, emotional, or physical maturity;
2. regarding initial selection of a teacher or request for a change of teacher;
3. to visit and observe any class the student attends;
4. made in writing to excuse the student from attendance for a family event or visit to a health care provider, without obtaining a note from the provider (such excuse does not diminish expectations for the student’s academic performance) (see Policy FBB);

5. made in writing to place a student in a specialized class or an advanced course (the school shall consider multiple academic data points when considering this requested accommodation); and
6. to meet with a teacher at a mutually agreeable time if the parent or guardian is unable to attend a regularly scheduled parent teacher conference (see Policy EFA regarding parent-teacher conferences).
Utah Code § 53A-15-1503(2)-(6), (8) (2014)

Parent rights regarding alternative credit and testing—

Students shall be allowed, consistent with requirements of the State Board of Education, to earn course credit towards high school graduation without completing a course in school by either testing out of the course or demonstrating competency in course standards.

Utah Code § 53A-15-1503(7) (2014)

Parent rights regarding student discipline—

As required by Policy FHA, parents or guardians will be provided a copy of that policy (which is the student conduct and discipline policy) and shall acknowledge by signature receiving the policy. When a student is suspended for any period of time or is recommended for expulsion, the student's parent or guardian shall be provided notice of the violation or violations that disciplinary action is to be based and shall have an opportunity to respond as set forth in Policy FHA.

Utah Code § 53A-15-1503(10) (2014)

Notice of parent rights—

Each student's parent or guardian shall be given annual notice of the parental rights and school responsibilities under this policy.

Utah Code § 53A-15-1502 (2014)