



Let's talk about school surveys and discussing sexuality in the classroom. A lot of parents don't want their children participating in these questionable activities and we often see warnings about them on social media. You may have seen a warning reminding you to "sign to have your child opt out!" However, this is not accurate advice in our state of Arizona.

Did you know the PACC helped to change and update the parental rights law? [ARS 15-102](#) now reads "Procedures by which parents will be **notified in advance of and given the opportunity to opt their children in to any instruction, learning materials or presentations regarding sexuality**, in courses other than formal sex education curricula." So, schools cannot discuss sexuality with your child without you giving your permission by "opting in". This is a very important distinction from "opting out" which assumes they have your permission unless you say otherwise.

Speaking of sexuality...What is the definition of sexuality? According to the [World Health Organization](#), the working definition of sexuality is: "...a central aspect of being human throughout life encompasses **sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation**, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction."

Considering that definition of sexuality, Arizona parents must be notified in advance and "opt in" to any discussion at school about sex and gender instruction. If schools do not get your prior permission, they are violating Arizona law!

For school surveys, the law is also OPT-IN! [ARS 15-117](#) states, "Notwithstanding any other law, each school district and charter school **shall obtain written informed consent from the parent of a pupil before administering any survey that solicits personal information about the pupil...**" In addition schools must do the following: "At least **seven days** before administering any survey to a pupil, every school district and charter school **shall provide a copy of the survey** to the pupil's parent along with a written informed consent form and shall obtain written informed consent from the pupil's parent for the pupil to participate in the survey."

There is "a civil penalty not to exceed \$500" for each violation of the law.

Beware of efforts to change these laws to "opt out" by organizations and people who want to undermine your parental rights.

For example, in their mid year legislative report in 2021, [SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change](#) wrote, "Policies that mandate written permission from a parent or guardian before a student can participate in sex education or a specific portion of sex education, also known as **"opt-in" policies, present another barrier** to young people receiving comprehensive sex education. Additionally, they provide an opportunity for parents opposed to sex education to involve themselves in efforts to diminish the reach of advanced instruction." (SIECUS 2021 Mid-Year Legislative Report, Page 13 of 45) One of our most important jobs as a parent is to be a barrier against anything that harms our children.

Parents know your rights!! Check out the parental rights handbook [here](#). Use the laws to protect your rights with school boards, administration and teachers.

Thank You!!