



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 agendas designed to undermine moral truth 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:

- Skim textbooks, particularly social studies and American History textbooks. Ask the teacher for copies of any supplementary resources that he or she will be using. Ask if any materials by the far Left Howard Zinn, who wrote *The People's History of the United States*, or from the Zinn Education Project will be used in class. If the answer is yes, you might consider asking for a teacher reassignment.
- If you don't have time to read the novels and plays assigned in English classes, which most parents don't, go online to find out more about them.
- 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. Representatives from organizations like the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance are often invited to speak at school events without any prior notification being provided to parents.
- 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.
- Ask your child specifically if homosexuality or "gender identity" is addressed during class time. Schools, which are arms of the government, have no right to undermine parental values or religious beliefs and no right to promote Leftist assumptions about the nature and morality of homosexuality or gender confusion.
- Find out if your school has an "opt in" or an "opt out" policy. Will they notify you and ask for your written consent before your child is exposed to sexual or other controversial subject matters in school?

- Email or write a letter to your school principal and your child’s teacher/s explaining that under no circumstances is your child to be exposed to any curricular resources, supplementary material, or activities — including anti-bullying materials — that address homosexuality, “sexual orientation,” or “gender identity.” Ask for written confirmation that they will honor that request.
 - Find out if your school has a student newspaper and subscribe to it. There are often articles, editorials, and announcements in student newspapers concerning controversial matters on campus.
 - 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 which special events take place in your school related to homosexuality, like the Day of Silence, Spirit Week, Ally Week, National Coming Out Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance, No Name-Calling Week, or Mix-It Up Day. Armed with this knowledge, parents can decide whether they want to talk with their children ahead of time and/or keep them home, as is IFI’s recommendation for the Day of Silence during which many schools permit students to refuse to speak in classes all day and permit teachers to accommodate student silence.
 - Ask your child if any teachers discuss “social justice,” “adultism,” “speciesism,” “homophobia,” “heteronormativity,” “heterosexism.”
 - Do teachers discuss “heterosexism,” “heteronormativity,” “gender identity,” and “homophobia,” all of which imply a denigration of traditional views of homosexuality?
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- **If you have any questions about your rights (and responsibilities) as a parent or guardian, contact IFI’s School Issues Advisor, Laurie Higgins at H.Laurie@IllinoisFamily.org.**

