

Student Bill of Rights

All children and youth in Philadelphia have the right to a high-quality pre-K-12 education in their neighborhood public schools that includes a full and equal opportunity to: develop their mind, personality and talents; fulfill their potential; achieve their goals; improve the quality of their lives; and graduate from high school qualified for college, a living-wage job and thoughtful, responsible participation as a democratic citizen. These educational opportunities shall include:

1. Safe, clean, comfortable and inviting facilities that are conducive to learning and demonstrate respect for those who go to school and work there.
2. A healthy, nonviolent and supportive school climate for every member of the school community, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, English language proficiency, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, disability or religion.
3. High-quality learning conditions in schools, including classes of a size that ensure individualized instruction, up-to-date classroom materials, fully staffed school libraries and modern classroom technology.
4. An academically rigorous curriculum that is enriched, well-rounded, engaging and culturally relevant.
5. Effective instruction provided by qualified, well-trained and well-supported staff who are given the time and resources necessary to address each student's development and particular learning needs, plan their lessons and collaborate with colleagues.
6. High-quality assessments that are aligned with the curriculum, use multiple methods for allowing students to fully demonstrate what they know and can do, and are used to improve the teaching and learning process.
7. Timely and effective intervention if students experience academic difficulties.
8. Developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that are applied fairly, support student learning and positive school climates, minimize student exclusion and the involvement of law enforcement to the greatest extent possible, and use preventive and restorative responses to bullying.
9. Holistic attention to students' intellectual, social, physical and emotional needs, including high-quality early childhood education programs for every child, art and music programs, recess, physical education, access to healthy food, and access to medical care and mental health services.
10. Meaningful opportunities, for students and their parents and families, to participate fully in the educational process and all other school and district decisions that significantly affect their lives and education.