



Forest Ranch Charter School

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September 22, 2008

Re: Addendum to FRCS 2008/2009 School Handbook - Parents Rights & Responsibilities Information

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The Forest Ranch Charter School (FRCS) Board of Trustees encourages parental and community involvement in the FRCS. We encourage individuals to be involved in the success of our students and school in a variety of ways, including: volunteering on or off site with school activities, participating in the Parent Organization and/or Safety Committee and/or other Board committees, and attending Board of Trustees meetings.

We are currently developing a Parental Involvement Program. Your assistance in developing this program is welcomed. Information about program specifics, once developed, will be distributed to parents/guardians.

The Board of Trustees wants to ensure that all parent/guardians are aware of their rights and responsibilities as related to their child's education and school. Many of those rights and responsibilities are defined in the Education Code, specifically Sections 11500 and 51100. We have attached some portions of the code to this letter for quick reference and review. The entire Education Code is available on-line at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>.

For more information on:

- How to volunteer at the school or with school-related activities, please contact: Diana Burgon at 891-5057.
- The Parent Organization, please contact Julie Jessen at 899-8030.
- The FRCS Board of Trustees and associated committees, or to volunteer as a parent representative on the Safety Committee, please contact Kiersten Morgan at 680-8884.
- The Parental Involvement Program or other school related issues, please call FRCS at 891-3154 and you will be directed to the appropriate individual.

If you have questions about the information in this letter, feel free to contact me at 680-8884 to discuss it in greater detail. The Board of Trustees is excited about the upcoming year and working hand-in-hand with our parents/guardians, director, faculty, staff, and volunteers to successfully achieve our vision of "Inspiring our students and community through a sustainable, comprehensive academic environment."

Sincerely,
Kiersten C. Morgan, Chair
FRCS, Board of Trustees

P. O. Box 5 • Forest Ranch • CA • 95942

530-891-3154 • fax 530-891-3155

Addendum to Forest Ranch Charter School 2008/2009 School Handbook

Parents Rights & Responsibilities Information

Some portions of the State of California Education Code, Sections 11500 and 51100 related to parents rights and responsibilities are listed below for quick reference and review. The entire Education Code is available on-line at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>. Please note that some formatting has been done to the Education Code copied below to facilitate reading.

11500. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(b) Parental involvement and support in the education of children is an integral part of improving academic achievement. Educational research has established that properly constructed parent involvement programs can play an important and effective role in the participation of parents in their children's schools and in raising pupil achievement levels.

11502. It is the purpose and goal of this chapter to do all of the following:

(a) To engage parents positively in their children's education by helping parents to develop skills to use at home that support their children's academic efforts at school and their children's development as responsible future members of our society.

(b) To inform parents that they can directly affect the success of their children's learning, by providing parents with techniques and strategies that they may utilize to improve their children's academic success and to assist their children in learning at home.

(c) To build consistent and effective communication between the home and the school so that parents may know when and how to assist their children in support of classroom learning activities.

(d) To train teachers and administrators to communicate effectively with parents.

(e) To integrate parent involvement programs, including compliance with this chapter, into the school's master plan for academic accountability.

11503. The governing board of each school district shall establish a parent involvement program for each school in the district that receives funds under Chapter 1 of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Augustus F. Hawkins-Robert T. Stafford Elementary and Secondary School Improvement Amendments of 1988 (P.L. 100-290). That program shall contain at least the following elements:

(a) Procedures to ensure that parents are consulted and participate in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of the program.

(b) Regular and periodic programs throughout the school year that provide for training, instruction, and information on all of the following:

(1) Parental ability to directly affect the success of their children's learning through the support they give their children at home and at school.

(2) Home activities, strategies, and materials that can be used to assist and enhance the learning of children both at home and at school.

(3) Parenting skills that assist parents in understanding the development needs of their children and in understanding how to provide positive discipline for, and build healthy relationships with, their children.

(4) Parental ability to develop consistent and effective communications between the school and the parents concerning the progress of the children in school and concerning school programs.

(c) An annual statement identifying specific objectives of the program.

(d) An annual review and assessment of the program's progress in meeting those objectives. Parents shall be made aware of the existence of this review and assessment through regular school communications mechanisms and shall be given a copy upon the parent's request.

51101. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools have the right and should have the opportunity, as mutually supportive and respectful partners in the education of their children within the public schools, to be informed by the school, and to participate in the education of their children, as follows:

(1) Within a reasonable period of time following making the request, to observe the classroom or classrooms in which their child is enrolled or for the purpose of selecting the school in which their child will be enrolled in accordance with the requirements of any intradistrict or interdistrict pupil attendance policies or programs.

(2) Within a reasonable time of their request, to meet with their child's teacher or teachers and the principal of the school in which their child is enrolled.

(3) To volunteer their time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and school programs under the supervision of district employees, including, but not limited to, providing assistance in the classroom with the approval, and under the direct supervision, of the teacher. Although volunteer parents may assist with instruction, primary instructional responsibility shall remain with the teacher.

(4) To be notified on a timely basis if their child is absent from school without permission.

(5) To receive the results of their child's performance on standardized tests and statewide tests and information on the performance of the school that their child attends on standardized statewide tests.

(6) To request a particular school for their child, and to receive a response from the school district. This paragraph does not obligate the school district to grant the parent's request.

(7) To have a school environment for their child that is safe and supportive of learning.

(8) To examine the curriculum materials of the class or classes in which their child is enrolled.

(9) To be informed of their child's progress in school and of the appropriate school personnel whom they should contact if problems arise with their child.

(10) To have access to the school records of their child.

(11) To receive information concerning the academic performance standards, proficiencies, or skills their child is expected to accomplish.

(12) To be informed in advance about school rules, including disciplinary rules and procedures in accordance with Section 48980, attendance policies, dress codes, and procedures for visiting the school.

(13) To receive information about any psychological testing the school does involving their child and to deny permission to give the test.

(14) To participate as a member of a parent advisory committee, schoolsite council, or site-based management leadership team, in accordance with any rules and regulations governing membership in these organizations. . .

(15) To question anything in their child's record that the parent feels is inaccurate or misleading or is an invasion of privacy and to receive a response from the school.

(16) To be notified, as early in the school year as practicable pursuant to Section 48070.5, if their child is identified as being at risk of retention and of their right to consult with school personnel responsible for a decision to promote or retain their child and to appeal a decision to retain or promote their child.

(b) In addition to the rights described in subdivision (a), parents and guardians of pupils, including those parents and guardians whose primary language is not English, shall have the opportunity to work together in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership with schools, and to help their children succeed in school. Each governing board of a school district shall develop jointly with parents and guardians, and shall adopt, a policy . . . The policy shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) The means by which the school and parents or guardians of pupils may help pupils to achieve academic and other standards of the school.

(2) A description of the school's responsibility to provide a high quality curriculum and instructional program in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables all pupils to meet the academic expectations of the school.

(3) The manner in which the parents and guardians of pupils may support the learning environment of their children, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Monitoring attendance of their children.

(B) Ensuring that homework is completed and turned in on a timely basis.

(C) Participation of the children in extracurricular activities.

(D) Monitoring and regulating the television viewed by their children.

(E) Working with their children at home in learning activities that extend learning in the classroom.

(F) Volunteering in their children's classrooms, or for other activities at the school.

(G) Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their own child or the total school program.

(d) This section does not authorize a school to inform a parent or guardian, as provided in this section, or to permit participation by a parent or guardian in the education of a child, if it conflicts with a valid restraining order, protective order, or order for custody or visitation issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

51101.1. (a) A parent or guardian's lack of English fluency does not preclude a parent or guardian from exercising the rights guaranteed under this chapter. . .