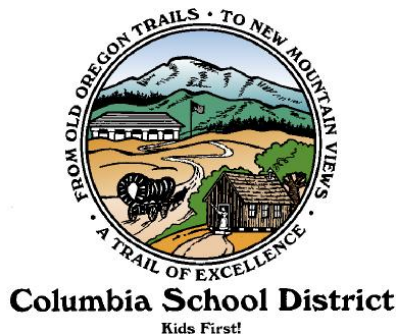


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Parent/Guardian Notification of Instructional and Opt-Out Rights

September 9, 2025

Dear Columbia School District Families,

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of a recent court ruling, *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, which affirms a parent's right to excuse their child from specific instructional activities that they believe conflict with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

This ruling is not limited to any particular topic or subject. Rather, it supports a broader right for families to make decisions about their child's education in alignment with their faith. At this time, there are no formal procedures from the state regarding how this must be implemented. However, in an effort to support transparency and communication, our teachers will continue sharing general overviews of upcoming instruction through tools like classroom newsletters, Google Classroom, or course syllabi.

Parents/guardians also have the right to review curriculum materials, which are available for inspection at the school office pursuant to Education Codes 49091.10 & 49091.14. Additionally, prior to every adoption of new curriculum, we have the curriculum publicly available for inspection and take comments on it prior to every approval by the school Board.

In addition, both campuses are working on developing prospectus for each subject by grade level to be available this year. In the meantime, all instruction and curricular authorizations must be based on the Frameworks that are developed, authorized, and approved by the State Board of Education.

This notification is simply to help you stay informed and provide an opportunity to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. If you believe part of your child's instruction may conflict with your sincerely held religious beliefs, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or school administrator so we can work together to support your family.

Additional Request to Add - Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Curriculum Notification and Opt Out Information

Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Curriculum Notification

As part of Columbia Elementary School District's commitment to fostering a respectful, inclusive, and supportive environment, and as required by the FAIR ACT in California, the District integrates a variety of inclusive and culturally responsive literature and lessons across its curriculum. These materials are selected to reflect the diverse identities, backgrounds, and experiences of our students, staff, and families.

Parents/guardians are advised that if they wish to opt their student out of specific topics or lessons based on sincerely held religious beliefs, they must complete and submit an opt-out form. The opt-out form must be returned at least 10 days prior to the instruction using the curriculum identified as against your firmly held religious beliefs.

A student who is opted out will be provided with an alternate activity in an alternate setting, such as the office, library, or another classroom, during the lesson or activity in question. Students approved for opt outs will not be disciplined nor held accountable for the portions of the lessons nor assignments for which they were opted out of.

Please note:

- This is a separate opt out from the 5th grade Human Growth and Development lessons, which have a separate opt out available for 5th grade students only.

The opt-out form is available on our website at www.columbiasd.com/parentresources

As more information becomes available, this will be communicated to families. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Warm regards,