

# Ranger Report



SEPTEMBER  
2023  
edition

**Barbara Rothman, Ed.S., Principal**  
**Derrick L. Huff, Ed.S., Assistant Principal**

## Principal's Message



Mrs. B. Rothman, Ed.S.



*Dear Parents,*

*Congratulations on a magnificent opening! While every beginning of the school year brings a few hiccups, this was the best opening ever! I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and patience. In just a matter of a couple of days, our processes have been normalizing. I am so grateful for all of you!*

*The newsletter is a valuable tool that will help you learn about upcoming events and learn about important information. You should be receiving our parent links via robocall and email. Our website will also be a good resource for needed items as well. It is of the utmost importance that my staff and I work in partnership with you this year. Our goal is to provide the best education for your child. Your child's happiness, education, and safety are our main priority!*

*We are WILD about Learning!*

*Mrs. B. Rothman, Ed.S.  
Proud Principal*



## Assistant Principal's Message



Mr. D. Huff, Ed.S.

*Dear Forest Hills Families,*

*Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and support during the first two weeks of school. Each day has been filled with highlights indicating that we are getting adjusted to being back at school. It's because of your support and the great staff we have that we are, and will continue to be, one of the best elementary schools in Broward County.*

*As you know, everyone is still getting adjusted to the new school year, and the procedures that come along with it. However, I wanted to remind you that 7 am arrival is only for K-5 students who are eating breakfast. Arrival for all other K-5 students will begin at 7:30 am. We ask that all Pre-K parents arrive in the lot at or just after 7:55 am to allow for any late K-5 students to get in and begin their day. We do appreciate the fact that many of you have been assisting students to arrive to school on time, and both arrival and dismissal have improved drastically since the first day of school. As we welcome the month of September let's all make a conscious effort to be kind to one another.*

*We know that there will be bumps along the way; however, together we can accomplish many things. Stay safe and connected!*

*Educationally Yours,  
Derrick L. Huff, Ed.S.*

Stay connected to



Forest Hills Elementary

SBBC website:

[browardschools.com/foresthills](http://browardschools.com/foresthills)

**Follow Us**

For the latest news & pictures!



[Facebook.com/foresthills.coral springs](https://www.facebook.com/foresthills.coral springs)



@FHERangerBear



@FHE\_Ranger\_Bears

**3100 NW 85<sup>TH</sup> AVE.  
CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33065**

**OFFICE: (754) 322-6400**

**FAX: (754) 322-6440**

### **Upcoming Events:**

Date:	Event:
9/4	Labor Day – No School
9/5	School Advisory Council (SAC) 7:15 am/ School Advisory Forum 7:35 am
9/6	<b>Open House</b> 5:30pm - P.T.O. ** P.T.O. Fundraiser Kickoff ** 6:00pm PreK - Grade 2 7:00pm – Grades 3 – 5
9/13	P.T.O. Executive Meeting
9/27	P.T.O. Fundraiser Ends
9/29	Volunteer Orientation (9:00 am)

# From the Desk of Kelly Hickman



Forest Hills is a Title I School. Title I is a federally funded program for economically disadvantaged children who reside in school attendance areas with a high concentration of children from low-income families. Since a high incidence of poverty in a school has a direct correlation with low academic student achievement, the goal of the Title I Program is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and the skills to master the Florida Standards. If you are interested in attending the Title I Parent Advisory meetings, please contact Kelly Hickman at 754-322-6400.



Exceptional Student Education- Here at Forest Hills Elementary as a Broward County Public School we serve students with disabilities and offer a free and appropriate public education in compliance with the federally mandated IDEA. A continuum of services and programs are available to meet the individual needs of students eligible for special education and related services. This continuum of services may be provided in a variety of settings, which include general education classrooms and resource rooms. Eligible students are provided supports and/or services as per their Individual Education Plan (IEP) that are based on each child's unique needs, as related to their present levels of academic achievement and functional performance.

We are looking for parents to represent our school at the ESE Advisory Meetings. The Broward ESE Advisory Council is a group of parent volunteers who strive to ensure beneficial opportunities for students with learning differences. The advisory promotes meaningful inclusion while working to ensure that our children benefit from the best educational practices and advocate for a stronger system of supports for our students, teachers and support staff. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Hickman at 754-322-6400.

Dear Forest Hills Parents,

As you know data drives everything we do. Based on this year's Schoolwide Positive Behavior Plan, we have identified rules and procedures for specified areas in school, as well as school-wide expectations for every student. Please review with your student(s) to ensure they understand rules are not only a part of school, but throughout life as well!

<b>School-wide Expectations</b>	
1.	Personal Responsibility
2.	Respect
3.	Manners
4.	Kindness

## **School-wide Rules**

<b>Hallway Rules</b>	<b>Cafeteria Rules</b>	<b>Playground Rules</b>
Keep hands and feet to yourself. Third tile, single file. Voice level Zero.	Clean Up after yourself. Hands and feet to yourself. Voice level 1.	Use equipment appropriately. Anything you bring outside must come back inside.
Third tile, single file. Keep hands and feet to yourself. Keep hands off bulletin boards.	Raise hand to ask for help. Stay seated.	Leave area cleaner than when you found it. Clean up after yourself.
Voice level 0 in the hallway. Say please and thank you.	Keep food on tray. No concoctions. Using please and thank you.	Use kind words (please, thank you, excuse me, etc.) Take turns. Think before you speak or act.
Open doors for others. Say please and thank you.	Keep your environment clean. Raise hand to be acknowledged by café staff.	Help a student in need. Be inclusive by inviting others to play. Treat others the way you want to be treated.



## From the Desk of Amanda Bitton



Welcome new/returning Forest Hills families to the 2023-2024 school year. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. My name is Ms. Bitton and this is my 3rd year as your school Guidance Counselor. I will be assisting in providing additional resources to all of our Ranger Bears and families. I am looking forward to the amazing school year that we are going to have together.

This past month we have been focusing on rules and expectations to assist in making your child's school year successful. In addition to this, we had our Code of Conduct and Anti-bullying assemblies. Both are extremely important to ensure your child's success and safety at school.

Each month we will have a student of the month for Kids of Character. Throughout the school year we will focus on 8 significant character traits, in which one child from each K-5th grade class will be recognized with a certificate. This month's character trait is cooperation. Each week, students will share ways that they have shown cooperation. Please practice these monthly traits at home with your child. Remember... you're their first role model.

In addition, individual, small group counseling and classroom guidance lessons will be implemented throughout the school year as needed. Your child's overall life skills and wellness is so important for them to grow academically, behaviorally, and socially. I will do my best to make sure that all children learning at Forest Hills Elementary are provided with the resources and a safe space in which they can thrive to be the best they can be.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of our school guidance services with regards to: outside counseling, small group counseling, classroom guidance lessons, BTIP (Broward Truancy Intervention Program), school uniforms, food pantries, volunteer services, the HEART( Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team) Program, Foster Care, child abuse, or you just need a listening ear, please contact me at 754-322-6411 or email me at [amanda.bitton@browardschools.com](mailto:amanda.bitton@browardschools.com). We are Wild About Learning at Forest Hills Elementary School. Together, we will make a difference this year.

- Ms. Bitton, School Counselor

### Anonymous Tip & Bully Box



An Anonymous Tip / Bully Box has been installed in the front office. This box is for parents and students to drop off their Anonymous Tip or bully concern.

There is also a bully box outside Ms. Bitton's (Guidance Counselor) door for student use. Both boxes are monitored daily. Should a parent or student have a concern they will simply fill out the form and drop it in the box. They will be notified as to next steps. Thanks!

## FROM THE DESK OF MS. GENOV

Dear Families,

As the new school year approaches, I am thrilled to extend my warmest greetings to all members of the Forest Hills Elementary community. My name is Ms. Genov, and it is an honor to introduce myself as an integral part of this exceptional school.

With a solid foundation in education, I hold a Master's degree in Science and a Bachelor's degree in Education. My journey in the world of teaching spans over two decades, encompassing a diverse range of roles and experiences. My teaching career started as a Biology Teacher in Europe and continued as an Elementary School Teacher in Broward County. For the past four years, I have taken on the role of an Instructional Coach at Forest Hills Elementary. In this capacity, I have worked collaboratively with teachers, families, and students, nurturing academic excellence through targeted guidance and support.

Additionally, I have embraced the responsibility of being the Response to Intervention Coordinator. This role involves close collaboration with teachers, the RTI team, and families to identify and address the unique needs of students requiring additional support.

As we embark on a new academic year, I am excited to continue collaborating with you all to create a positive and empowering learning environment. I am here to listen, learn, and support, and I am deeply invested in the growth and success of each student at Forest Hills Elementary.

If you have any questions regarding your child's academic performance please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at [gabriela.genov@browardschools.com](mailto:gabriela.genov@browardschools.com) or by phone at 754/322 6400.

## Suggestions to Help Build Your Child's Reading Skills

### Kindergarten

- Read predictable books to your child. Teach him to hear and say repeating words, such as names for colors, numbers, letters and animals. Predictable books help children to understand how stories progress. A child easily learns familiar phrases and repeats them, pretending to read.
- Practice the sounds of language by reading books with rhymes and playing simple word games (i.e. *How many words can you make up that sound like the word "bat"?*)

### First Grade

- Point out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers and magazines.
- Listen to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen as he practices. Let him know you are proud of his reading.

### Second & Third Grade

- Build reading accuracy by having your child read aloud and point out words she missed and help her read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word, have your child reread the whole sentence to be sure she understands the meaning.

*\*Taken from the U.S. Department of Education "Helping Your Child Become A Reader" and The Partnership for Reading "Put Reading First" publications.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need support to ensure your child's academic success. You may call me at 754 322 6400 or contact me by e-mail at [gabriela.genov@browardschools.com](mailto:gabriela.genov@browardschools.com).



## **Parental Input on Evaluations**

In accordance with Florida Statute 1012.34, parents may provide input into the instructional and administrative employee performance evaluations. For input on instructional evaluations, please contact the school's principal. For input on the administrative evaluations, please contact the Regional/Associate Superintendent Office.



# Forest Hills Elementary

Office Hours: 7am - 3pm

Phone: 754-322-6400

Email: [Foresthillses@browardschools.com](mailto:Foresthillses@browardschools.com)

Address: 3100 NW 85th Ave

Coral Springs, FL 33065



## Suspicious Activity Reporting App

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Submit A  
Tip Online



Download On The  
App Store



Get It On  
Google Play



# **DROP OFF & PICK UP**

**THIS IS A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS ARE TO BE DROPPED OFF AND PICKED UP AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL. PLEASE FOLLOW THE CAR LOOP AND PULL ALL THE WAY DOWN TO AVOID TRAFFIC BACK UP. FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD AND OTHERS, PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILD OFF ON 85TH AVENUE OR FOREST HILLS BOULEVARD. IT IS NOT ONLY UNSAFE, BUT IT IS ILLEGAL TO DROP YOUR CHILD OFF ON THE STREET OR SIDEWALK.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE TRAFFIC PATTERN. BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER PARENTS AND DRIVE TO THE END OF THE CAR LINE. DO NOT CUT INTO THE LINE. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT ILLEGAL TO MERGE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE CAR LINE, IT DOES CAUSE FRUSTRATION AMONGST OTHER PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING IN THE LINE PRIOR.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.**



## **Arrival & Dismissal Reminders**

Drop off (K-5) Breakfast only: 7:00 am

Drop off (K-5) not eating breakfast: 7:30 – 7:50 am

(after 7:50 am K-5 parents must park and escort their student to the front office for a late pass)

PreK arrival begins at 7:55 am. After 8:15 am, PreK parents must park and escort their student to the office for a late pass.

PreK begins dismissal at 1:15 pm and ends at 1:30 pm.

(All late pick-ups must sign students out through the front office.)

Grades K-5 begin dismissal at 1:50 pm and ends at 2:20 pm.

(All late pick-ups must sign students out through the front office.)

## ***Clothing Box***

The Clothing Box located North of the car loop is designated for clothing only. Please do not leave clothing or any other materials outside of the bin. Also, we do not collect furniture or anything other than clothing. Please do not burden the school's custodial staff with extra items that must be rummaged through and disposed of. The school is not capable of sustaining this task. Thank you so much in advance. Please continue to donate your gently used clothing.

## **Parent Handbook Highlights**

(Please make sure you read the Parent Handbook located on the Forest Hills' website.)

**Birthdays:** Parents are welcome to bring in store bought cookies, cupcakes, or doughnuts for birthdays provided that the following are practiced: \* No cakes, please. \* Student must bring the items in the morning with him/her. The front office will take the birthday items and bring them to the cafeteria for lunchtime. Classroom instruction cannot be interrupted. \* Avoid rings or toys that are used to decorate the goodies. \* No nuts or peanut butter items. \* Only store-bought items can be brought in. No homemade food is permitted. \* Be sure to keep the ingredients of the items on the container in case of student food allergies. \* Bring enough for the entire class. Goodies will be shared with the class in the lunchroom during your child's lunch time. Goodies must be able to be easily distributed when students are done with their meal: pull apart cupcakes, cupcakes, cookies, or doughnuts. Student birthdays are also highlighted during our morning announcements.

**Parent Complaint/Concern:**




As a parent, you are a part of our Ranger Bear Family. Should you have a concern, we want to make sure that your issue is handled quickly and effectively. There are specific staff members that manage particular areas of concern (see directory in the back of this handbook). Please follow these steps should you have an academic or behavioral concern: 1. Contact your child's teacher via email or telephone. 2. If your issue is still not resolved, refer to the directory for specific staff members or call the front office for assistance. 3. Should your concern not be handled after step one or two, call the office manager to set up an administrative appointment. There is also a parent complaint form that you can also fill out. Our goal is to work together with you so that your child can access his/her education to the best capacity possible.

**Reporting an Absence by Phone or Attendance Line** Parents may report a reason for absence by phone (754-322-6402) using the school's attendance line located on the "Report an Absence" page of the school's website. If you should have a special circumstance that requires your child to be absent, you must submit a Special Circumstances Request Form to the principal no later than five days prior to the absence. The principal will review the request, and you will be notified regarding the status of your request. Additional documentation may be required for approval. Early pickups will not be permitted after 1:20 p.m. as it disrupts the safety of the dismissal process. In addition, although at times an early pick-up is inevitable, it should only be a last resort. Instruction takes place until the very end of the day. Early pickups not only disrupt the instructional flow but also causes your child to miss valuable learning time.



# Student of the Month Character Traits



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August</b></p> <p><b><u>Back To School!</u></b> Let's start with positive attitudes and expectations for the new school year!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p> <p><b><u>Cooperation:</u></b> To work together toward a common goal.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <p><b><u>Responsibility:</u></b> Being accountable in word and deed. Having a sense of duty to fulfill tasks with reliability, dependability and commitment.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p> <p><b><u>Citizenship:</u></b> Being law-abiding and involved in service to school, community and country.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December</b></p> <p><b><u>Kindness:</u></b> Showing understanding of others by treating them with kindness, compassion, generosity and a forgiving spirit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January</b></p> <p><b><u>Respect:</u></b> Showing high regard for an authority, other people, self and country. Treating others as you would want to be treated. Understanding that all people have value as human beings</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February</b></p> <p><b><u>Honesty:</u></b> Telling the truth, admitting wrongdoing. Being trustworthy and acting with integrity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March</b></p> <p><b><u>Self-Control:</u></b> Having discipline over one's behavior or actions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April</b></p> <p><b><u>Tolerance:</u></b> Recognizing and respecting differences, values and beliefs of other people.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May</b></p> <p><b><u>Tolerance:</u></b> Recognizing and respecting differences, values and beliefs of other people.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <p><b><u>School ends.</u></b> Have a great summer and continue to practice good character!</p>	

## Procedures for House Bill 1557, Parents Rights in Education

1. Email the Principal at [barbara.rothman@browardschools.com](mailto:barbara.rothman@browardschools.com) with a copy to [anne.pekrol@browardschools.com](mailto:anne.pekrol@browardschools.com).
2. Include subject line: Parents Rights in Education
3. State your concern with details
4. The principal will receive your written concern and contact you.

# About our PTO

We would like to thank the following parents who make up our Parent Teacher Organization Executive Board:

<b><i>President</i></b>	<b><i>Mr. Robert Bogle</i></b>
<b><i>Vice President</i></b>	<b><i>Mr. Daniel Camuto</i></b>
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	<b><i>Ms. Chanta Permenter</i></b>
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	<b><i>Mr. Jon Mota</i></b>

Our Executive Board meets once per month either in person or virtually in order to plan upcoming events such as fundraisers, the fall festival, the Valentine's activity, Mother's Day bundt cakes, Ranger Bear Parties, Staff Appreciation, and more.

However, you do not need to be a part of the Executive Board and attend meetings to help our students! The PTO is asking that you join. Your membership will help our school's goals and will go straight to the school. Please participate in fundraisers. We will have our first fundraiser in September.

Our PTO's goal is to enhance the art program by providing students an enhanced environment. We already know that we have a talented and extraordinary teacher. Mr. Mounce is amazing; however, the art room could use some sprucing up like modern furniture and a mural to name a few, but this won't happen without your help! Please participate in fundraisers and PTO sponsored events. They help your child's learning environment.





## HELP OUR SCHOOL! FUNDING ALERT!

We are proud to be a Title 1 School. As a Title 1 School, we are able to offer our students additional resources such as student planners, additional resources teachers and a math coach, tutoring for select students, and more. However, we need for our parents to please fill out the free and reduced lunch application so that we can maintain our funding. Please help us by applying [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com). Thank you in advance for helping our school provide every possible educational enhancement possible!

Should you need assistance, please email [jennifer.cassara@browardschools.com](mailto:jennifer.cassara@browardschools.com) to schedule help.

## TRUANCY

### WHAT IS A PATTERN OF NON-ATTENDANCE?

A student may be establishing a pattern of non-attendance when he or she has an accumulation of tardiness, early sign-outs, and/or unexcused absences that exceed five (5) school days in one marking period or ten (10) school days in two (2) marking periods. If the child study/collaborative problem-solving team finds that a pattern of non-attendance is developing, whether the absences are excused or not, a meeting with the parent must be scheduled to identify potential remedies. (F.S. §1003.26(1)(b)).

**A student may be identified as “habitual truant” if he or she has fifteen (15) unexcused absences within ninety (90) school calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable consent of the child’s parent, is subject to compulsory school attendance under F.S. §§1003.21 (1) and (2)(a), and is not exempt under F.S. §§1003.21 (3) or §1003.24, or by meeting the criteria for any other exemption specified by law or rules of the State Board of Education. (F.S. §1003.01 (8)).**

Parents and students may verify absences at any time at school or at home by contacting the school or by accessing electronic attendance records through Pinnacle.

If after an accumulation of absences as noted above, the principal and/or his designee determines that the reasons for time out of school are invalid, the principal/designee shall refer the student to the Collaborative Problem-Solving Team to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing and provide appropriate interventions, and/or the State Attorney’s Office will be notified due to non-compliance with compulsory school attendance laws. (F.S. §1003.26 (1)(b)). However, if the principal and/or designee determine that the reasons for the absences are valid and there are no early signs of truancy, the parent must provide a note (to be kept on file at the school) that provides the reasons for those absences. No further action will be taken.

### EARLY SIGN OUTS

When students are signed out early on an ongoing basis, their academic performance may be negatively impacted. The school system strongly encourages parents to ensure their student is in school for the full school day every day. Signing out early may count toward establishing a pattern of non-attendance that may indicate early signs of truancy. A pattern of non-attendance may be established by an accumulation of tardiness, absences (excused and unexcused), and early sign outs that exceeds five (5) days in a marking period or ten (10) days in two (2) marking periods.

FOR A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION, PLEASE READ THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT. 😊

### RANGER BEAR PARTIES

Thanks to our PTO funding, we will continue our Ranger Bear Parties this school year! Our Ranger Bear Parties are a part of our school-wide positive behavior plan. Students earn points for staying on task, completing assignments, wearing a uniform, attending school, and following the rules. Each Friday, our students have a Fun Friday activity. The culminating activity for the month is a Ranger Bear Party with an engaging activity and a lot of fun! Information is located in the FHE Parent Handbook located on the school’s website.

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# Procedures for House Bill 1557, Parents Rights in Education

1. Email the Principal at [barbara.rothman@browardschools.com](mailto:barbara.rothman@browardschools.com) with a copy to [anne.pekrol@browardschools.com](mailto:anne.pekrol@browardschools.com).
2. Include subject line: Parents Rights in Education
3. State your concern with details.
4. The principal will receive your written concern and contact you.

## Parent's Rights in Education

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ENROLLED

CS/CSHB 1557, Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

ENROLLED

CS/CSHB 1557, Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

1 An act relating to parental rights in education;  
2 amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; requiring district school  
3 boards to adopt procedures that comport with certain  
4 provisions of law for notifying a student's parent of  
5 specified information; requiring such procedures to  
6 reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make  
7 decisions regarding the upbringing and control of  
8 their children in a specified manner; prohibiting the  
9 procedures from prohibiting a parent from accessing  
10 certain records; providing construction; prohibiting a  
11 school district from adopting procedures or student  
12 support forms that prohibit school district personnel  
13 from notifying a parent about specified information or  
14 that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a  
15 student to withhold from a parent such information;  
16 prohibiting school district personnel from  
17 discouraging or prohibiting parental notification and  
18 involvement in critical decisions affecting a  
19 student's mental, emotional, or physical well-being;  
20 providing construction; prohibiting classroom  
21 discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity  
22 in certain grade levels or in a specified manner;  
23 requiring certain training developed or provided by a  
24 school district to adhere to standards established by  
25

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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ENROLLED

CS/CSHB 1557, Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

51 relief, damages, and reasonable attorney fees and  
52 court costs to certain parents; requiring school  
53 district to adopt policies to notify parents of  
54 certain rights; providing construction; requiring the  
55 department to review and update, as necessary,  
56 specified materials by a certain date; providing an  
57 effective date.  
58  
59 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
60  
61 Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (8) of  
62 section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, to read:  
63 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The  
64 district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all  
65 powers and perform all duties listed below:  
66 (8) STUDENT WELFARE.—  
67 (c)1. In accordance with the rights of parents enumerated  
68 in ss. 1002.20 and 1014.04, adopt procedures for notifying a  
69 student's parent if there is a change in the student's services  
70 or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or  
71 physical health or well-being and the school's ability to  
72 provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the  
73 student. The procedures must reinforce the fundamental right of  
74 parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control  
75 of their children by requiring school district personnel to

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26 the Department of Education; requiring school  
27 districts to notify parents of healthcare services and  
28 provide parents the opportunity to consent or decline  
29 such services; providing that a specified parental  
30 consent does not wave certain parental rights;  
31 requiring school districts to provide parents with  
32 certain questionnaires or health screening forms and  
33 obtain parental permission before administering such  
34 questionnaires and forms; requiring school districts  
35 to adopt certain procedures for resolving specified  
36 parental concerns; requiring resolution within a  
37 specified timeframe; requiring the Commissioner of  
38 Education to appoint a special magistrate for  
39 unresolved concerns; providing requirements for the  
40 special magistrate; requiring the State Board of  
41 Education to approve or reject the special  
42 magistrate's recommendation within specified  
43 timeframe; requiring school districts to bear the  
44 costs of the special magistrate; requiring the State  
45 Board of Education to adopt rules; providing  
46 requirements for such rules; authorizing a parent to  
47 bring an action against a school district to obtain a  
48 declaratory judgment that a school district procedure  
49 or practice violates certain provisions of law;  
50 providing for the additional award of injunctive

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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CS/CSHB 1557, Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

76 encourage a student to discuss issues relating to his or her  
77 well-being with his or her parent or to facilitate discussion of  
78 the issue with the parent. The procedures may not prohibit  
79 parents from accessing any of their student's education and  
80 health records created, maintained, or used by the school  
81 district, as required by s. 1002.22(2).  
82 2. A school district may not adopt procedures or student  
83 support forms that prohibit school district personnel from  
84 notifying a parent about his or her student's mental, emotional,  
85 or physical health or well-being, or a change in related  
86 services or monitoring, or that encourage or have the effect of  
87 encouraging a student to withhold from a parent such  
88 information. School district personnel may not discourage or  
89 prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical  
90 decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical  
91 health or well-being. This subparagraph does not prohibit a  
92 school district from adopting procedures that permit school  
93 personnel to withhold such information from a parent if a  
94 reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would  
95 result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect, as those terms are  
96 defined in s. 39.01.  
97 3. Classroom instruction by school personnel or third  
98 parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur  
99 in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-  
100 appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in

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101 accordance with state standards.

102 4. Student support services training developed or provided

103 by a school district to school district personnel must adhere to

104 student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks

105 established by the Department of Education.

106 5. At the beginning of the school year, each school

107 district shall notify parents of each healthcare service offered

108 at their student's school and the option to withhold consent or

109 decline any specific service. Parental consent to a health care

110 service does not waive the parent's right to access his or her

111 student's educational or health records or to be notified about

112 a change in his or her student's services or monitoring as

113 provided by this paragraph.

114 6. Before administering a student well-being questionnaire

115 or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through

116 grade 3, the school district must provide the questionnaire or

117 health screening form to the parent and obtain the permission of

118 the parent.

119 7. Each school district shall adopt procedures for a

120 parent to notify the principal, or his or her designee,

121 regarding concerns under this paragraph at his or her student's

122 school and the process for resolving those concerns within 7

123 calendar days after notification by the parent.

124 a. At a minimum, the procedures must require that within

125 30 days after notification by the parent that the concern

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151 injunctive relief.

152 c. Each school district shall adopt policies to notify

153 parents of the procedures required under this subparagraph.

154 d. Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be

155 construed to abridge or alter rights of action or remedies in

156 equity already existing under the common law or general law.

157 Section 2. By June 30, 2023, the Department of Education

158 shall review and update, as necessary, school counseling

159 frameworks and standards; educator practices and professional

160 conduct principles; and any other student services personnel

161 guidelines, standards, or frameworks in accordance with the

162 requirements of this act.

163 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

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126 remains unresolved, the school district must either resolve the

127 concern or provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving

128 the concern.

129 b. If a concern is not resolved by the school district, a

130 parent may:

131 (I) Request the Commissioner of Education to appoint a

132 special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good

133 standing and who has at least 5 years' experience in

134 administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts

135 relating to the dispute over the school district procedure or

136 practice, consider information provided by the school district,

137 and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State

138 Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request

139 by the parent. The State Board of Education must approve or

140 reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled

141 meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30

142 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The

143 costs of the special magistrate shall be borne by the school

144 district. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules,

145 including forms, necessary to implement this subparagraph.

146 (II) Bring an action against the school district to obtain

147 a declaratory judgment that the school district procedure or

148 practice violates this paragraph and seek injunctive relief. A

149 court may award damages and shall award reasonable attorney fees

150 and court costs to a parent who receives declaratory or

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