

STARS Charter School

Parent Bill of Rights and Article 7B Compliance Policy

Policy Purpose

The STARS Charter School Board of Directors adopts this policy to comply with Article 7B of Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes and to establish clear procedures regarding parental involvement, access to information, instructional materials, student health and well-being, parental concerns, student surveys, wireless communication devices, and other requirements contained in Article 7B.

This policy supplements existing STARS Charter School policies, procedures, handbooks, and practices. Where an existing school policy conflicts with a requirement of Article 7B or this policy, this policy and applicable North Carolina law shall control.

1. Parent Guide and Parental Involvement

STARS shall provide parents with a Parent Guide to Student Achievement as required by G.S. 115C-76.30 and shall make information concerning parental rights readily accessible to families.

STARS supports meaningful parental participation in a child's education and shall provide opportunities for parents to:

- communicate and cooperate with teachers and administrators concerning homework, attendance, discipline, and student progress;
- participate in appropriate school programs, volunteer opportunities, and school activities;
- receive information concerning available community services;
- receive information concerning curriculum, textbooks, instructional materials, clubs, and activities; and
- participate, when appropriate, in the development and evaluation of family-involvement activities.

These provisions implement the parental-involvement policy requirements of G.S. 115C-76.35.

2. Curriculum, Textbooks, and Instructional Materials

Parents may request information concerning their child's course of study and the textbooks and supplementary instructional materials used in the child's classroom.

Upon request, STARS shall provide a reasonable opportunity for a parent to inspect and review textbooks and supplementary instructional materials used for instructional purposes.

A parent who objects to a textbook or supplementary instructional material may submit the objection in writing to the student's principal. The principal shall review the objection and provide a response. A parent dissatisfied with the response may utilize the applicable grievance or appeal procedures.

This policy shall be available for review at the school and on the STARS Charter School website.

STARS shall also provide parents with information regarding the nature and purpose of curricular and extracurricular clubs and activities offered to their children.

3. Reproductive Health and Safety Education

When STARS offers instruction for which parental review or consent is required under North Carolina law, parents shall be given an opportunity to review the applicable materials and to provide or withhold consent as required by law.

4. Parent Requests for Information

A parent may submit a written request to the principal for information the parent has a legal right to access under Article 7B.

The following procedure shall apply:

1. **Principal response.** Within 10 business days, the principal shall provide the requested information or notify the parent that additional time is necessary because of the volume or complexity of the request. If an extension is necessary, the information shall be provided no later than 20 business days from the original request.
2. **Executive Director review.** If the principal denies the request, fails to respond within 10 business days, or fails to provide the information within the permitted extension, the parent may submit the request in writing to the Executive Director.
3. **Board appeal.** If the Executive Director denies or fails to respond to the request within 10 business days, the parent may appeal to the STARS Board of Directors no later than 20 business days from the date the request was submitted to the Executive Director.

4. The Board shall place the appeal on the agenda for its next meeting occurring more than three business days after the appeal is submitted.
5. The decision of the Board under this procedure is final as provided by law.

This Article 7B information-request procedure is separate from STARS' general grievance procedure and shall control when the request concerns access to information protected by Article 7B.

5. Student Health and Well-Being Notifications

STARS shall provide parents with the notifications and opportunities for consent required by G.S. 115C-76.45, including:

- notice at the beginning of each school year regarding health care services offered by the school and the means by which parents may provide consent where consent is required;
- information concerning the procedures available to parents to raise concerns under Article 7B;
- prior notice and required consent before administering applicable student well-being questionnaires or health screening forms to students in kindergarten through third grade;
- notice prior to or contemporaneous with changes in services or monitoring related to a child's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, as required by law; and
- notice prior to changes in the name or pronoun used for a student by school personnel or in school records when notification is required by law.

School personnel shall encourage appropriate communication between students and their parents regarding issues affecting a student's health and well-being and shall not discourage parental involvement in critical decisions regarding a student's mental, emotional, or physical health, subject to exceptions required by State or federal law.

6. Age-Appropriate Instruction

STARS shall comply with the curriculum requirements of G.S. 115C-76.55, including the statutory restrictions applicable to instruction in kindergarten through fourth grade. This provision does not prohibit school personnel from responding appropriately to student-initiated questions as permitted by law.

7. Parent Concerns Regarding Article 7B

A parent who believes that a STARS procedure or practice violates Article 7B may notify the student's principal in writing.

STARS shall initiate a process to resolve the concern within seven days of receiving the notification.

If the concern remains unresolved 30 days after the parent's original notification, STARS shall provide the parent with a written statement explaining the reasons the concern has not been resolved and shall provide information concerning the remedies available under G.S. 115C-76.60.

This procedure applies specifically to concerns arising under Article 7B. STARS' existing general Grievance Policy remains applicable to other complaints and grievances.

8. Protected Information Surveys

STARS shall comply with G.S. 115C-76.65 before administering a protected information survey.

When applicable, parents shall be provided access to the survey and the process for providing consent at least 10 days before administration. Written or electronic parental consent shall be obtained where required by law.

Nothing in this section limits additional rights provided under the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.

9. Wireless Communication Devices

The Board reaffirms the STARS Student Electronic Device/Cell Phone Policy contained in the Parent-Student Handbook.

Students may not use, display, or have wireless communication devices turned on during instructional time except when:

1. authorized by a teacher for an educational purpose or emergency;
2. required by a student's Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan; or
3. required to manage a student's health care pursuant to a documented medical condition.

STARS may maintain rules more restrictive than the statutory minimum regarding device use during other portions of the school day.

Consequences contained in the STARS Parent-Student Handbook for violations of the electronic-device policy remain in effect.

To the extent existing handbook language could be interpreted as prohibiting one of the exceptions above, this policy supersedes that language.

10. School-Authorized Overnight Activities

During any school-authorized activity or event involving overnight accommodations, students shall not share sleeping quarters with a student of the other biological sex except when:

1. the parents or legal guardians of all students sharing the sleeping quarters have provided written permission to STARS; or
2. the other individual is an immediate family member as defined by North Carolina law.

This section shall be administered consistent with G.S. 115C-76.110.

11. Dignity and Nondiscrimination Requirements

STARS shall comply with G.S. 115C-76.200 through G.S. 115C-76.210, including applicable requirements concerning nondiscrimination, instruction, professional development, and annual certification to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

12. Administration and Publication

The Executive Director or designee is authorized to develop forms, notices, administrative procedures, and website materials necessary to implement this policy, provided those materials are consistent with this policy and applicable law.

STARS shall make this policy publicly available on its website with its Parent Bill of Rights information and shall provide the policy to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as required by law.

The Executive Director may make nonsubstantive updates to statutory citations, titles, links, forms, or administrative contact information without additional Board approval. Substantive changes to this policy shall be presented to the Board for approval.

Adopted by the STARS Charter School Board of Directors: 9/17/26