

# **BACK-TO- SCHOOL (& ALL-YEAR-ROUND) PARENT CHECKLIST**







## **The backpacks are packed, the paper is bought, the kids are in classrooms...**

but have you, as a parent, checked off YOUR back-to-school to-do list yet? PragerU Kids is dedicated to giving parents the tools we need to educate our children with knowledge and values, while also providing tips, ideas, and guidance for parents who seek to protect transparency and truth in our education system.

Check out these simple yet impactful action items to help kickstart your school year right.

# 1. OPT OUT

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) surveys, comprehensive sex-ed, and “culturally-responsive and restorative” Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) activities continue to mine sensitive information from minors and reinforce victim-versus-oppressor mentalities—often without parental consent.

The good news? Most parents, in most states, can opt out of school initiatives that clash with religious beliefs and family values. By sending a brief, respectful yet assertive email to our children’s teachers, principals, and superintendents, we can seek to opt our children out of these divisive practices preemptively. Do this at the very beginning of the year.

Find your state’s opt-out forms and instructions here: <https://pacificjustice.org/resources/for-parents/public-school-opt-out-forms/public-school-opt-out-forms-content/> or scan the QR code below.



# 2. GET INVOLVED

Volunteering at your child's school is the most direct way to forge partnerships with teachers... with a watchful eye. Parents have been kept out of our taxpayer-funded schools for years, and it's our fundamental right to investigate what new activities have been ushered in, what books have been purged, if boys are now using girls' bathrooms (and vice versa), and/or how teachers now approach subjects with "equity" and "gender inclusivity." Not only will you learn more about your school's functionality and get to know the staff, but you may also connect with like-minded parents in the process.

When volunteer sign-up sheets are distributed, don't be shy to check the box for classroom helpers, library volunteers, or extracurricular activity chairs. And be sure to join the PTA. If you're involved, your voice tends to carry more weight should you need to escalate your concerns in the future.

# 3.

# PUT

# THE

# GOOD

# BACK

Our system has allowed (and even encouraged) important literature that promotes critical thinking and challenges students to be removed from schools. Instead of learning vocabulary and virtue through classic books like *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, students are now frequently encouraged to explore books like *Gender Queer*. Graphic illustrations and explicit materials are not uncommon at middle and high schools now, and are often labeled as “inclusive” by misguided school librarians and leaders. When concerned parents discover and cite inappropriate materials at school, they are accused of wanting to “ban books.” Auditing and calling out unfit books at schools must continue, but we should also aim to be proactive by putting good books back into our school libraries. Find out your district’s policy for donating books (this can be done by calling/emailing your district officials), and donate age-appropriate books that should be available to children on library shelves. (PragerU Kids books for kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, *Otto’s Tales*, is a great start!) ●



# 4.

# FILE A FOIA REQUEST

FOIA stands for Freedom of Information Act—which requires disclosure of public records upon request and is valid in all 50 states. Parents have a right, protected by law, to know what’s happening in classrooms and what’s being said in communications between teachers and administrators if reasonable cause is presented. Submitting a FOIA request is free, and allows parents to access emails, curriculum details, paper trails, and more through searching keywords—to be used when there is a suspected, compromised situation that calls for deeper insight, information, and transparency. Filing a FOIA request communicates that you are actively engaged, unafraid to ask questions, and serious about expecting accountability when warranted. When you receive the facts and information you are seeking, take them to a public forum like a school board meeting, and respectfully demand consequences and accountability. PragerU’s introductory Parent Action Guide gets you started with step-by-step instructions for taking an active role in your children’s education.

Be brave this back-to-school season (and all year long). Our country’s future depends on it.

