

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION: THE PARENT / EDUCATOR RELATIONSHIP

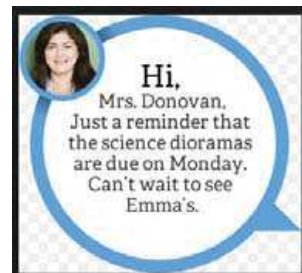
33rd Annual School Law Conference
University of Texas CLE

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2

Parent Communication – Then and Now



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Relevant Laws

Partners in Education – The Law

- Supreme Court Cases:
 - *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 65 (2000)
 - “[T]he interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children... is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court”
 - *Santosky v. Kramer*, 455 U.S. 745, 753 (1982)
 - Acknowledging the “fundamental liberty interest of natural parents in the care, custody, and management of their child”
 - *Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U.S. 158, 166 (1944)
 - “It is cardinal with us that the custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply nor hinder”
 - *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510, 534-535 (1925)
 - “[T]he liberty of parents and guardians” includes the right “to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control”
 - *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399, 401 (1923)
 - Parents have a right to “establish a home and bring up children” and control their children’s education



Partners in Education – The Law

- “Parents are **partners** with educators, administrators, and school district boards of trustees in their children’s education. Parents shall be encouraged to **actively participate** in creating and implementing educational programs for their children.”
 - Tex. Educ. Code § 26.001(a)
- The rights listed in Chapter 26 **are not exclusive**, and do not limit a parent’s rights under other law.
 - Tex. Educ. Code § 26.001(b).
- Unless otherwise provided by law, a board of trustees, administrator, educator, or other person **may not limit parental rights**.
 - Tex. Educ. Code § 26.001(c)

Partners in Education – The Law

- Texas Education Code – Chapter 26
 - Right to reasonable **access** to the school principal
 - Tex. Educ. Code § 26.003(a)(2)
 - Right to **request** addition of academic classes
 - Tex. Educ. Code §26.003(a)(3)(A)
 - Right to **full information** concerning the parent’s child
 - Tex. Educ. Code § 26.008(a)
 - Right to **access** teaching materials
 - Tex. Educ. Code § 26.006(a)
 - Right to **access** records
 - Tex. Educ. Code §26.004(b)

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