



School Board Engagement Guide

A Parent Tool Kit Resource

Why It Matters

School boards make decisions that directly affect your child's education, the curriculum taught, the books in the library, and the policies that shape your child's daily environment. Attending—and speaking at—school board meetings is one of the most powerful ways for parents to influence local education.



Step 1: Find Your School Board Meetings

- Check Online: Visit your school district's website. Look for a tab called "School Board," "Board of Education," or "Governance." Meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes are usually posted there.
- Ask Directly: Call your school's front office and ask for the board meeting schedule.
- Sign Up for Alerts: Many districts allow you to sign up for email alerts when agendas are posted.
- Note: In New Mexico, boards are legally required to post their meeting agendas at least 72 hours in advance.



Step 2: What to Expect at a Meeting

- Structure: Meetings usually begin with formalities (pledge, roll call), then move into reports, agenda items, and public comment.
- Public Comment: This is when parents can speak—usually limited to 2–3 minutes each. You may need to sign up in advance, either online or at the meeting.
- Professional Atmosphere: Board members sit at a front table; the audience includes parents, teachers, and administrators. Comments are recorded as part of the public record.
- Respectful Conduct: Even when tensions run high, remaining calm and professional strengthens your impact.



Step 3: Preparing Your Comments

- Keep It Short: Most boards enforce a 2-minute limit. Aim for about 250–300 words.
- Stay Focused: Address one clear issue (curriculum, library content, parental rights, etc.) rather than trying to cover everything.
- Be Personal: Share why this matters to your family, not just statistics. Stories resonate.
- Bring Facts: Use evidence—like parental consent laws, NM curriculum rights, or Supreme Court cases—to back up your point.



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Step 4: Talking Points for Parents

Use these as starting points, depending on the issue:

On Gender Transitions / Medical Decisions

- “If a student needs parental consent for Tylenol at school, parents should also be involved in life-altering medical decisions like abortion or hormone treatments.”

On Education Curriculum

- “Parents are the primary educators of their children. We deserve transparency in what is being taught and the right to opt out of curriculum that conflicts with our values.”

On Age-Inappropriate Content in Libraries

- “If a book is too explicit to read aloud at this board meeting, it shouldn’t be available to middle school students in the library.”

On Education Freedom

- “Every child learns differently. Families—not zip codes—should decide where their kids go to school.”



Step 5: Sample Scripts

Script 1 – Curriculum Transparency

“Good evening, my name is [Name], and I am a parent of [X] children in this district. I’m here because I believe parents deserve full transparency in what our children are being taught. Too often, supplemental materials and digital programs are used without clear explanation to families. As parents, we have both the right and responsibility to direct our children’s education. I urge this board to ensure curriculum is accessible for parental review and to uphold opt-out rights when materials conflict with family values. Thank you.”

Script 2 – Library Content

“My name is [Name], and I’m speaking as a concerned parent. Recently, I reviewed titles available in the school library and found books containing graphic sexual content that is inappropriate for children. If a book cannot be read aloud in this room, it has no place in a school library. I respectfully request that this board establish clear review standards and provide parents with a process to challenge inappropriate materials. Our children deserve safe and age-appropriate learning environments.”



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Step 5: Sample Scripts (Cont.)

Script 3 – Parental Rights in Healthcare

“Good evening. As a parent, I was shocked to learn that in New Mexico, minors can access abortion and gender-related medical treatments without parental consent. This undermines the most basic responsibility of parents: to protect our children’s health and wellbeing. Schools should never encourage or hide medical decisions from families. I ask this board to adopt policies requiring parental notification and involvement whenever sensitive medical issues are raised with students. Parents must not be cut out.”

Step 6: Strategies for Speaking with Confidence

- Practice Aloud: Read your comments out loud several times. Time yourself to stay within the limit.
- Bring Notes: Use an index card or printout—you don’t have to memorize.
- Speak Clearly & Calmly: Slow down and make eye contact. Passion is good, but shouting weakens your impact.
- Stand with Others: Attend with a group of parents. Multiple voices on the same issue make a stronger statement.
- Follow Up: Send a copy of your comments by email to the board afterward for the record.

Bottom Line

School boards exist to serve families—not the other way around. When parents show up, speak up, and stay engaged, real change happens.

Because when it comes to our children’s schools—**My Kid. My Choice.**



School Board Engagement Worksheet

Prepare to speak confidently for your child's future



Step 1: Meeting Details

- School District: _____
- Date of Meeting: _____
- Location/Link: _____
- Public Comment Sign-Up Deadline: _____

Step 2: My Issue

- ☐ Curriculum Transparency
- ☐ Age-Inappropriate Content (Library/Assignments)
- ☐ Parental Rights in Healthcare (gender/abortion)
- ☐ Education Freedom / School Choice
- ☐ Other: _____

Describe your concern in one sentence:

Step 3: Key Talking Points

(Tip: Keep it short—one clear idea per point)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Step 4: Personal Story / Connection

Why does this issue matter for your family or your child?

Step 5: Draft My Script

(Aim for 250–300 words. Use your talking points + personal story.)

Step 6: Follow-Up Plan

- ☐ Email a copy of my remarks to the school board.
- ☐ Share with other parents/community members.
- ☐ Attend the next meeting with more parents.

✓ **Takeaway:** Preparation is power. The clearer your message, the stronger your impact. When parents show up united, school boards listen. Because when it comes to our children's schools—**My Kid. My Choice.**