



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

September 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS  
ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *PM*

SUBJECT: UPHOLDING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND PARENTAL  
AUTHORITY IN AMERICA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

In the United States of America, parents have the right and the responsibility to speak out in defense of their children. The Department of Justice remains steadfast in its obligation to protect the constitutional liberties of every American especially when those rights are exercised in the defense of family, faith, and the future of our nation.

Recent years have seen a disturbing trend in which state and local authorities have brought radical gender and racial ideology into our public schools while suppressing dissenting viewpoints. Worse still, they have ignored, dismissed, and even retaliated against concerned parents who speak out against these morally and factually bankrupt ideologies and in defense of their own children.

The First Amendment guarantees the right of every citizen to speak freely, assemble peaceably, and petition the government for redress of grievances—including at public school board meetings. These rights do not yield to political trends or bureaucratic convenience. While schools must maintain order, such authority cannot be used as a pretext to silence dissent or punish parents for expressing their views.

Furthermore, parents have a fundamental right to direct the moral and religious education of their children. Schools receiving public funds must ensure compliance with applicable federal protections, including mechanisms for parents to exempt their children from instruction that conflicts with the family's sincerely held religious beliefs, such as content related to sexuality and gender ideology. As the Supreme Court recognized in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, compelled exposure to such materials over parental objections may violate federal protections. Any attempt to burden these rights will face scrutiny and action from the Department of Justice.

Equally troubling is the rise in abusive conduct by government actors against parents exercising their constitutional freedoms. Let me be clear: when school board members, administrators, and other government officials threaten law-abiding parents, they can and will be held accountable. Conspiring to violate constitutional rights is a crime under federal law. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 241.

Accordingly, I am directing the Civil Rights Division to be alert to violations of parental rights and First Amendment liberties in educational settings. I am also directing U.S. Attorneys to work with federal, state, and local partners to identify and respond to credible threats against parents and violations of their federal rights.

We are restoring the rule of law and returning the federal government to the people it serves. This Department stands with America's parents.