



Back To School Parent Checklist

Educated and Engaged

M4LA Back2School Checklist:

Know the School

- ☐ Attend Open House, schedule an intro call, or send an email to say hi
- ☐ Learn the names and contact info of all your child's teachers, such as gym, health, and others (not just their primary teacher)
- ☐ Locate and review the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct
- ☐ Identify key school staff: Principal, Counselor, Nurse, Librarian

Review Curriculum & Materials

- ☐ Request or review curriculum outlines and unit plans for each subject
- ☐ Ask to preview reading lists, textbooks, and assigned novels
- ☐ Look for red flags: ideological bias, inappropriate content, lack of rigor
- ☐ Ask: "Is this a purchased curriculum or teacher-created?"

Digital Tools & Tech Awareness

- ☐ Ask which apps, websites, and platforms your child will use
- ☐ Review the school's cell phone policy
- ☐ Check if data is collected and shared by third-party EdTech providers
- ☐ Set limits for screen time at home and school (if allowed) – See if you can have tech-free options
- ☐ Send email template to school – Request for Caution in Implementing AI Technology in Elementary Classrooms

Opt-Outs & Permissions

- ☐ Submit opt-out forms for sex ed, surveys, or other sensitive topics
- ☐ Review technology permissions, media release forms, and accessible books in the library
- ☐ Check if your state allows vaccine exemptions (medical/religious) and complete any necessary paperwork
- ☐ Ask about social-emotional learning (SEL), gender identity policies, and pronoun use
- ☐ Know your rights on mental health screenings or services.
- ☐ Ask how the school handles bullying, discipline, and reporting

Other Powerful Actions

- ☐ Start or join a Moms for Liberty Chapter
- ☐ Review your state's education standards and parental rights laws
- ☐ Keep a folder or binder for all school-related documents this year
- ☐ Bookmark state DOE and school board policy pages

Questions to Ask About Discipline Policy

1. Where can I find the school or district's official Code of Conduct or discipline policy?

(Ask for the document and any student/parent versions.)

2. Does the school use a zero-tolerance policy? If so, how is it applied in practice?

(Are there exceptions? Is it evenly enforced?)

3. What disciplinary framework does the school follow?

(E.g., traditional consequences, restorative justice, PBIS, or progressive discipline?)

4. Who is responsible for enforcing discipline at this school?

(Is it classroom teachers, administrators, counselors, or a team?)

5. How are discipline issues communicated to parents?

(Will I be notified immediately? Is there a standard process?)

6. What is the school's policy for addressing bullying, harassment, or peer conflict?

(Where can I file a bullying report, and how is it followed up?)

7. How does the school ensure fair and consistent discipline for all students?

(What accountability or oversight exists to prevent bias or unequal enforcement?)

8. Does the school have a School Resource Officer (SRO)?

(What is their role, and how do they interact with students?)

9. How does the school handle repeated disruptive behavior or violent incidents?

(What interventions or consequences are in place?)

10. How does the discipline policy align with keeping all students safe—physically and emotionally?

(Does the school balance support with accountability?)

Questions to Ask About Grading Policy

- 1. What is the school's current grading policy, and when was it last updated?**
(What prompted the change? Was it board-approved or district-mandated?)
- 2. What grading model is being used—traditional, standards-based, or equity-based?**
(Can you explain what that looks like in practice for students and parents?)
- 3. Does the policy use terms like “accuracy,” “motivation,” or “bias-resistance”?**
(If so, what do these terms mean, and can you provide real examples?)
- 4. How are late or missing assignments handled?**
(Is there a penalty, a cap, or unlimited retakes? Are deadlines enforced?)
- 5. Are students ever given full credit for turning in late or incomplete work?**
(What is the rationale behind this practice?)
- 6. Are makeup tests or retakes allowed? If so, how does that process work and how are those scores calculated?**
- 7. Is extra credit allowed? Who decides, and how does it factor into final grades?**
- 8. Can a teacher override a student's final grade, even if test and assignment scores suggest a different outcome?**
(Who reviews that decision?)
- 9. What is the ultimate goal of the current grading approach? How do you define student “success”?**

Questions to Ask About Gender Policy/Gender Support Plans

- 1. Does the school or district have a written Gender Support Plan (GSP) policy?**
(Where can I access it? Who approved it—board, administration, or state?)
- 2. Does the school follow state guidance or outside organization recommendations (e.g., GLSEN, ACLU, CASEL) when creating these plans?**
(Are they legally required or optional?)
- 3. Is it your policy to withhold information from parents/guardians regarding a student's gender identity, pronouns, or transition?**
- 4. Are there cases where the school uses a different name/pronoun for a student at school than what is shared with the parent?**
(If so, who makes that decision?)
- 5. Are parents notified when a student requests a gender identity change (new name, pronouns, facilities, sports)?**
- 6. Are parents included in the development of the Gender Support Plan from the beginning?**
(Or only after it's been implemented?)
- 7. How can parents formally opt out or submit a written request that no Gender Support Plan be created for their child without prior consent?**
- 8. What specific criteria or student statements are used to determine if a GSP is necessary?**
(Is parental input part of the evaluation?)
- 9. What role does the school psychologist or counselor play in evaluating a child's gender identity or readiness for transition-related accommodations?**
- 10. What checks are in place to ensure staff are not encouraging social transition without parental involvement or psychological evaluation?**
- 11. Can a student's name or gender be changed in school records, directories, or ID cards? If so, are parents notified or required to consent?**
- 12. Does the school permit students to access opposite-sex bathrooms or locker rooms based on gender identity alone?**
(If yes, are parents of all affected students notified?)
- 13. Is there a different name or pronoun being used in internal communications vs. what is sent home to parents?**