

CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

CTA believes that all students should have equal access to a high quality public education free from discrimination or bias reflecting their economic status, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, status or other characteristics. To further protect students, their confidentiality must be maintained. With the same care and caution, the confidentiality of school employees must be respected and guarded.

Equal Access to All Educational Opportunities

Every student attending a public school in California is entitled to equal access to all educational opportunities. This access shall not be denied because of gender discrimination, ethnicity, language, special needs, immigration status, or socio-economic status. The goal of public education is to provide students with the skills necessary to become responsible and healthy members of society.

A Fully Integrated Society

The nation and the state must eliminate by statute and practice, barriers of race, color, national origin, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, economic status and genetic characteristics that prevent some individuals, adult or juvenile, from exercising rights enjoyed by others. These rights include liberties decreed in common law, the Constitution, and statutes of the United States.

Confidentiality of Student Records

The rights to privacy and confidentiality must be guaranteed, including maintaining the confidentiality of student records. Likewise, the privacy of personnel files must be maintained stringently with access by the member and with limited access by those with supervisory responsibility for the member and only for matters covered by the contract or California law.

Public School Choice

All public schools must be "choice" schools – schools that offer a quality, first class education. Schools must offer open enrollment or "public schools of choice" for the purpose of creating magnet schools, addressing ethnic or racial balance issues, or providing child care.

Districts should also offer open enrollment for public schools of choice if the plan: 1) does not lead to the privatization of the public schools; 2) reflects the academic and individual educational needs of students; 3) promotes equal educational opportunity for all students and operates in ways that facilitate better racial, ethnic, and socio-economic balances in the public schools; 4) provides adequate resources to ensure quality education programs for every student; 5) and utilizes collective bargaining procedures.