

Questions for the Record
United States House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce
Hearing on
“Breaking Trust: Attacks on Parental Rights, Inappropriate Content, and Legal Abuses in
America’s Schools.”

August 10, 2026

Response of
Dr. Maria Su
Superintendent
San Francisco Unified School District

Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI)

1. **Dr. Su, your district website touts your partnership with Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider.¹ Your website directs students to a hospital that boasts of its “high-quality, sensitive, and confidential abortion and family planning services,” including “both first- and second-trimester abortion.”² It seems you have a lot of resources available for students who want an abortion. What about students who don’t want an abortion—does your district help connect students with adoption non-profits?**

The San Francisco Unified School District (“SFUSD” or “the District”) is committed to serving all students, including our pregnant and parenting students. SFUSD offers students information about a variety of community resources in the San Francisco area, including information about groups providing resources for students interested in exploring adoption. These include the San Francisco Department of Public Health (“SFDPH”) Community Health Programs for Youth (“CHPY”), which runs several clinics that offer pregnancy testing and options counseling, as well as Planned Parenthood, which offers a wide range of services including pregnancy testing, adoption information and referrals, and discussion of all pregnancy options. Health teachers in middle and high school also provide students with information about pregnancy options, including carrying the pregnancy to term and becoming a parent, carrying the pregnancy to term with an adoption plan, and “Safe Surrender” options.

SFUSD serves as both a school district and county education department. This makes SFUSD well situated to support students who are parents, including by offering a school specifically for students who are parents with wrap-around services. *See SFUSD, Hilltop + El Camino Alternativo Schools*, <https://www.sfusd.edu/school/hilltop-el-camino>

¹ <https://www.sfusd.edu/school/galileo-academy-science-technology/student-life/wellness-center/teen-clinics>

² <https://www.sfusd.edu/school/hilltop-el-camino-alternativo-schools/wellness/community-resources>;
<https://www.zuckerbergsanfranciscogeneral.org/services/family-planning-services/>

alternativo-schools.

- a. **There are plenty of pro-life non-profits that do phenomenal work providing expectant mothers with free resources such as diagnostics, counseling, and free baby supplies like cribs and diapers. Does your district point students to any of those non-profits?**

See answer to 1.

2. **Dr. Su, as I'm sure you know, the Supreme Court's decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (2025) requires that parents be allowed to opt their children out of content that conflicts with a parent's sincerely held religious beliefs. We've heard concerns from parents in your district that, while you may grant religious opt-outs, the process is long and burdensome, and that the district puts a substantial burden on parents to prove that their religious free exercise is being infringed upon.³ Can you describe what materials or proof you require from families in order to claim a religious opt-out?**

SFUSD takes seriously its obligation to follow the law, including the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, 606 U.S. 522 (2025). As explained in the SFUSD Student and Family Handbook, parents who wish to opt out of curriculum "should contact their school principal directly" to arrange for a review of "the specific curriculum and religious beliefs at issue." See SFUSD Student and Family Handbook § 3.3.1, *Right to Be Included in the Educational Process* (last updated July 16, 2026), <https://www.sfusd.edu/student-and-family-handbook/chapter-3-family-resources-and-rights/33-parent-rights/331-right-be-included-educational-process>.

- a. **What criteria does the district use to assess these requests?**

See answer to 2.

- b. **Are there any cases in which SFUSD would refuse to allow students to opt out of curriculum that conflicts with the family's sincerely held religious beliefs?**

See answer to 2.

- c. **Will you commit to including parents' rights under Mahmoud on the district's "Parent's Rights" webpage and in the district's Student and Family Handbook?**

Our District is actively reviewing and updating its materials following the Supreme Court's decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*.

³ Documents submitted to Committee staff in advance of the June 10, 2026 hearing.

Representative Burgess Owens (R-UT)

- 1. The District’s published Parent’s Rights notice represents to parents that they may inspect, upon request and before administration or use, instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.**

- a. What is the specific procedure by which a parent may exercise his or her pre-presentation inspection right to Voices – An Ethnic Studies Survey?**

California law provides that a prospectus of school curriculum and academic standards is available upon request at each school site. *See* Cal. Educ. Code § 49091.14 (2025). Parents are given notice of their right to review curriculum materials in the Student and Family Handbook. *See* SFUSD Student and Family Handbook § 3.3.1, *Right to Be Included in the Educational Process* (last updated July 16, 2026), <https://www.sfusd.edu/student-and-family-handbook/chapter-3-family-resources-and-rights/33-parent-rights/331-right-be-included-educational-process>. Parents may contact staff at their specific school site to review curriculum materials.

- b. Who is the designated point of contact to begin such an inspection?**

See answer to 1a.

- c. What is the response timeline?**

The specific timeline for receiving instructional materials may vary depending on the circumstances of the request.

- d. Did any comparable inspection procedure exist for the internal ethnic studies curriculum used from 2014 through 2025?**

Your question seeks information that predates my tenure as Superintendent of SFUSD.

- 2. The District’s public website sets forth parental rights, including the right to inspect instructional material before its use.**

- a. Does the District send out a formal notice to parents informing them of their right to inspect instructional material before its use?**

See answer to 1a.

- b. With respect to the purchase of Voices in 2025, what notice, if any, did the District give parents before it purchased or committed funds to purchase Voices?**

The proposal to consider the “[p]urchase and delivery of the Voices Curriculum Instructional Materials” was described in agendas for SFUSD Board of Education meetings

prior to the purchase of those materials. *See, e.g., SFUSD, July 17, 2025 Draft Agenda*, at 16, <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oNqeXkuaDCYTX5NQVmgWI12eo8OAnDWOkQSo59S1z9Y/edit?usp=sharing>; *SFUSD, August 14, 2025 Draft Agenda*, at 10, https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wa5w6GMlIBuvbgHLFKGhFHT-fDIXqQP2j_0q-ewyg/edit?tab=t.0.

c. What opportunity, if any, did parents have to inspect Voices before the purchase?

Agendas for the July 29 and August 26, 2025 SFUSD Board of Education meetings included links to materials that summarized SFUSD’s plans for the *Voices* curriculum pilot, provided an overview of the *Voices* curriculum, and detailed the cost and proposed terms of the contract to purchase the *Voices* curriculum. Access to the curriculum was provided via the publisher’s website as well as at public office hours where the curriculum was available before the pilot curriculum was purchased. These meetings were part of a multi-year process that included community engagement and parent review.

d. What notice, if any, did the District give parents before the Board’s adoption of Voices and before classroom use of the opportunity to review the Voices material? And what opportunity, if any, did parents have to inspect those materials before that adoption?

See answer to 2a, 2b, and 2c. Additional material and notice was provided as part of the Board’s meeting on April 26, 2026, where the curriculum was adopted.

e. What notice, if any, did the District give parents of the opportunity to review the internal ethnic studies curriculum utilized from 2014 through 2025?

Your question seeks information that predates my tenure as Superintendent of SFUSD.

3. What is the specific administrative regulation or written procedure that you, or your designee, has put in place to ensure that the Ethnic Studies Curriculum does not violate students’ civil rights or federal law, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

SFUSD Board Policy 0410 provides, among other things, that “the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library shall not be adopted by the Board or district if the use would subject a student to unlawful discrimination,” including discrimination on the basis of gender, nationality, race, ethnicity, or religion. Administrative Regulation 5145.3 establishes practices and procedures to apply nondiscrimination laws and policies in all District programs and activities.

a. Did the District conduct any civil rights or federal law compliance review of Voices before its adoption?

The *Voices* curriculum underwent a rigorous multi-year review process before its adoption

that included significant community engagement and input, as well as consideration of state standards for ethnic studies curricula. I am proud that this community-centered process resulted in the selection of materials that stand out for their academic rigor, inclusivity, and strong support for student engagement and critical thinking.

- b. Did the District conduct any civil rights or federal law compliance review of the internal ethnic studies curriculum used from 2014 through 2025?**

Your question seeks information that predates my tenure as Superintendent of SFUSD.

- c. Is there any administrative regulation that requires a civil rights or federal law compliance review before adopting and implementing core curriculum?**

As I noted above, Board Policy 0410 prohibits the use of discriminatory instructional materials at SFUSD. Following the adoption of any curriculum, SFUSD's Office of Equity is responsible for ensuring that the curriculum is implemented in a manner that is free from discrimination. See SFUSD, *Office of Equity* (last updated October 15, 2024), <https://www.sfusd.edu/departments/office-equity>. SFUSD is also governed by state requirements for implementing curricula, as set forth in Board Policy 6161.1 and Board Policy 6141.

- 4. During the hearing, I raised the point that the Voices curriculum used by the District compares parents protesting school boards over COVID policies to 1960s White parents trying to avoid desegregation. Specifically, the curriculum says, "Parent protests of school policies are not just a recent phenomenon, however. In the 1960s, many White parents put their children into private schools in response to desegregation policies." I then asked you a question to which you responded requesting that I produce an example of the document in question. Below you will find an image of the excerpt I was citing which is found in the Voices curriculum on page 36.**

In recent years, the news has been filled with angry parents protesting at school board meetings. Disagreement over issues such as the teaching of race and ethnic studies, masking during the COVID pandemic, and the rights of transgender students have led to events like the parents shown at this raucous school board meeting in Virginia. Parent protests of school policies are not just a recent phenomenon, however. In the 1960s, many White parents put their children into private schools in response to desegregation policies. In the 1970s, they protested bussing policies aimed at integration. In the 1990s, conservative parents protested the teaching of sex education in schools.



- a. **Do you think parents who objected to school COVID policies are similar to racists?**

No.

- b. **Are you concerned that curriculum in your school associates parent opposition to school policies with racism?**

The *Voices* curriculum is academically rigorous, aligned with state standards for ethnic studies, and promotes student engagement while maintaining respect for parents.

- c. **Do you believe that parents have the right to oppose school policies?**

Yes. School districts and their staff should be open to all feedback from parents, whether positive or negative.

- d. **Is opposition to school policies inherently racist or hateful?**

No. SFUSD welcomes input from parents and the community.