

Senate Education Committee

Trevor Currier 271-4151

SB 430, relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents.

Hearing Date: February 3, 2026

Time Opened: 9:58 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:31 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires all school employees to respond honestly and completely to written requests by parents regarding information relating to their children.

Sponsors:

Sen. Lang

Sen. Avard

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. McGough

Sen. Ward

Sen. Innis

Sen. Gray

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Abbas

Sen. Sullivan

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Carson

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Rochefort

Rep. Berry

Rep. Moffett

Who supports the bill: 12 People signed in support of SB 430. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide (trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov).

Who opposes the bill: 488 People signed in opposition to SB 430. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide (trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov).

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Timothy Lang, *Senate District 2*

- Senator Lang introduced and testified in support of Senate Bill 430.
- Senator Lang stated that this bill is a process bill that requires educators to respond to questions from parents in a timely and honest manner.

- Senator Altschiller asked if there is anything in this bill or other legislation that would prevent parents from sending daily questions to educators. Senator Lang replied that there are very few things legislation can do to restrict transparency. He added that teachers are often among the most trusted adults by their students and thus have valuable information to share. He stated that placing a limit on the questions asked doesn't feel appropriate.
- Senator Altschiller asked whether the legislation would require parents to submit questions about their students through a uniform process or form. Senator Lang responded that it would be impossible to create a form that addresses every question a parent might have.
- Senator Altschiller asked whether the bill protects educators from advocacy groups abusing the process and hindering their ability to do their jobs. Senator Lang replied that the process described by Senator Altschiller is civil engagement, which he supports.
- Senator Sullivan asked if Senator Lang believes parents use this bill only when necessary and if they have concerns about their child's well-being. Senator Lang responded that the relationship between parents and their children is always changing, and that the bill is intended to help parents get the answers they deserve. He mentioned that there could be situations where children are self-harming at home, and if teachers are aware that something is wrong but do not inform parents, that is problematic.
- Senator Sullivan asked whether Senator Lang believed that the situation he just described occurred in Manchester. He explained that the bill's goal is to make sure it never happens again.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

David Trumble

- Mr. Trumble testified in opposition to Senate Bill 430.
- Mr. Trumble stated that children have a right to privacy and to make their own choices in life.
- He noted that the only decision-makers in SB 430 are the parent and the teacher; the student's opinion is not considered, which undermines students' rights.
- Mr. Trumble explained that during divorce hearings, the court considers a child's opinion and perspectives.
- He stated that the rights of the children in this situation should be equal to those of the parents.

- Mr. Trumble referred to Doe vs. New Hampshire to explain that the courts have ruled that the right of the parents is not absolute. He added that parents are responsible for talking to their children and asking them questions.
- He stated that this bill could result in parents talking less with their children.
- Mr. Trumble argued that asking a teacher to share all relevant information with Health and Human Services, especially when it is unsafe to disclose to parents, could damage the parent-child relationship. He also pointed out that a teacher might not always know about past abuse or neglect, and there is no requirement to report potential harm.

Amie Terravechia, 603 Equality

- Ms. Terravechia testified in opposition to SB 430.
- Ms. Terravechia stated that educational institutions should not serve as a way for parents to learn about their children’s identity. She also noted that this positions public schools in a role of surveillance.
- She said that schools should be places of learning and trust, which are essential for building a successful academic environment.
- Ms. Terravechia explained that this legislation would harm trust relationships between parents and children by restricting honest and open discussions.
- She explained that recognizing the need to avoid imminent danger in the home is difficult for a teacher to identify. She added that when faced with potential discipline issues, if an educator fails to comply, it could turn teachers into detectives.
- Senator Altschiller asked whether the reporting requirement in the bill risks teachers unintentionally harming their students. Ms. Terravechia explained that the bill would put educators in an impossible situation, as they could not possibly know the details of a student’s home environment.
- Senator Altschiller asked if Ms. Terravechia agrees with the comments stating that educators contribute to a child’s suicide by not discussing issues with the child's parents. Ms. Terravechia explained that current measures are in place that allow parents to reach out if they are concerned about a child’s safety. She also added that it is unlikely any teacher would withhold information about a student's safety and well-being.

Brian Hawkins, National Educators Association – New Hampshire

- Mr. Hawkins testified in opposition to Senate Bill 430.
- Mr. Hawkins stated that the bill is unnecessary and undermines the relationship that many parents and educators have, and that should be celebrated.

- He explained that a bill passed (HB 10) last year that allows parents to inquire about information regarding their child from educators and school personnel. He added that this past legislation is very different from the enumerated items regarding the required nature of an answer under SB 430.
- Mr. Hawkins explained that the standard of complete and honest is a standard that is often only used in bankruptcy proceedings.
- He stated that the provision of Senate Bill 430 prevents educators from seeking the opinion of other staff on whether they can respond to a question.
- Mr. Hawkins expressed concern about who will be the arbiter of material information and whether an inquiry was fully answered or not.
- Senator Abbas questioned why Mr. Hawkins thinks educators might doubt the completeness and honesty of their responses. Mr. Hawkins replied by asking what the difference is between that and current law. He emphasized that there is little flexibility for educators when giving a response. Mr. Hawkins supported adding some language to protect educators if they forget to include something important.
- Senator Altschiller asked if, when an inquiry involves a parent's child and implicates another student, the teacher would be obliged to answer honestly and completely. Mr. Hawkins responded that this question highlights the difficult position many educators might find themselves in.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

T.C.
Date Hearing Report completed: February 4, 2026