



Parental Authority

Principle

Parents are ultimately responsible for the care and well-being of their children and therefore should be free from intrusive government involvement.

Happy Kids

Social science and common sense tell us that children are happier, healthier, and have better educational outcomes when their parents are involved in their lives.



Public Opinion

-In a recent survey, 40% of respondents say, "The learning experiences of very young children are none of the state's business and should be left to families."¹
-A 2005 poll shows that 78% of respondents believe that at least one parent should be notified before minor has an abortion.²

Policy Issues in Virginia

School Choice—Parents have the responsibility to provide the best possible education for their children. Too many do not have the economic means to choose a non-public school that may better meet their children's educational needs. Providing a tax credit for families that choose non-public schools would benefit families.

Healthcare Decisions— In too many situations parents are not involved in the life altering health care decisions of their children. At state operated health clinics, children can receive suicide prevention counseling, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted disease, and contraception without parents ever knowing.

Family Life Education— The "sex-ed" curricula taught in public schools in Virginia varies from school district to school district. Parents must be given more say in what is taught in these classes and more freedom in removing their kids from them.

Internet Filters— Libraries receiving federal funds are required to place Internet filters on their computers; however, libraries receiving solely state funds do not share this requirement. State-funded libraries should be required to install Internet filters on their computers to protect children from obscenities.

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¹Available at: <http://www.earlycare.org/ccpa.htm>

²Available at: <http://www.nrlc.org/Federal/CCPA/ParentalPolls042904.html>