

HATCH AMENDMENT SAMPLE LETTER

[Date]

Dear **[Name]**:

This letter is written in response to your request that your child not be involved in certain school activities or in the use of certain instructional materials without your prior review and written consent. This request has been submitted to us under the terms of 20 U.S.C. 1232h, Protection of Student Rights, commonly referred to as the "Hatch Amendment."

It is the policy of the School District that parents and other members of the public have the right to inspect instructional materials used or being considered for use in the schools and to comment upon these materials. The establishment of curriculum and the decision to include or remove particular materials within the curriculum are the legal responsibilities of the School Board, acting as the representative of the local community.

The School District has a procedure for parental complaints about curriculum and instructional materials. If there are specific matters which you believe are improper or objectionable, you may submit a complaint through these procedures. However, the law does not give each parent the right to condition his or her child's attendance at school or any particular activity upon prior approval of the content or teaching technique used.

The School District acknowledges and complies with the Hatch Amendment requirement for parental consent prior to psychiatric or psychological examination, testing or treatment in any program funded by the United States Department of Education. The School District does not construe this provision to require parental consent to ordinary classroom activities or teaching techniques.

The public schools are not interested in undermining the efforts of parents or in manipulating the beliefs of their children. All aspects of the curriculum are open to inquiry and discussion by concerned members of the community. However, the schools are charged with the duty of providing an educational program and, in fulfilling that duty, are empowered with significant discretion in setting curriculum.

The request set forth in your correspondence cannot be granted. This is not to say that any of the described activities occur at the schools, but merely recognizes that the request fails to account for the public interest and function of the schools as a community institution and overstates the purpose and effect of the Hatch Amendment.