

City of Capitola Children and Youth Bill of Rights

In alignment with other initiatives at the State and across the State, the City of Capitola commits to the well being of youth and sets forth this Children and Youth Bill of Rights. This Bill ensures that leaders keep the needs of youth at the forefront of decisions related to policies, programs, and other government initiatives. The Children and Youth Bill of Rights provides a foundation that helps our community make children and youth a top priority, so that:

1. They have a healthy mind, body and spirit that enables them to maximize their potential.
2. They develop a healthy attachment to a parent, guardian, or caregiver, and on-going relationship with a caring and supporting adult.
3. They have a safe and healthy environment, including their home, school, neighborhood, and community.
4. They have access to quality education that promotes future success in school, career, and life.
5. They have training in life skills that will prepare them to live independently, be self-sufficient, and positively contribute to their community.
6. They have employment opportunities with protections from unfair labor practices.
7. They have freedom from mistreatment, abuse, and neglect.
8. They voice opinions in matters of interest to them, develop their leadership capacity, and engage in their community.
9. They feel supported by the larger community and maintain a sense of hope for the future.
10. They are encouraged to explore and express their innate curiosity and creativity.

Children and youth are entitled to these rights regardless of their gender, class, race, ethnicity, national origin, culture, religion, immigration status, sexual orientation, or ability.

The City will leverage its relationship between any and all relevant parties, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure that these rights are effectively addressed.