

The *Lindsey Barr* Case

Case Name: *Barr v. Tucker*

Case Status: Settlement reached, and case dismissed on Monday, April 24, 2023

Significance: Whether a substitute teacher may be fired for expressing concerns about curriculum.



Background: Lindsey Barr served as a full-time teacher with Bryan County Schools (BCS), including McAllister Elementary Schools (MES), since 2008. For ten years, Lindsey received excellent reviews, earning a rating of exemplary on almost all performance criteria. In January 2022, Lindsey was hired as a substitute teacher through BCS, and she was responsible for facilitating the implementation of lesson plans as directed by the home room teacher. At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, Lindsey learned of a new read-aloud program through MES, called “Camp Read S’more.” This read aloud program included a picture book that contained illustrations in conflict with Lindsey’s sincerely held religious beliefs on marriage and the family. After expressing her concerns to the MES Principal, Lindsey was fired as a substitute teacher at the Bryan County School district for speaking out as a Christian, a mother, and a private citizen on a matter of public concern. Alliance Defending Freedom represented Lindsey Barr defending the rights of parents to speak consistently with what they believe. Lindsey Barr, Bryan County Schools, and McAllister Elementary’s principal, Heather Tucker, reached a settlement in which the school agreed to reinstate Lindsey and pay \$181,000 in damages and attorneys’ fees.

Key Points

- Teachers shouldn’t fear for their careers when privately sharing their concerns about curriculum with the school principal.
- Public schools can’t retaliate against parents for expressing concern about their children’s education.
- Public schools should not be pushing radical viewpoints on our youngest children. Instead of encouraging kids to learn about a variety of perspectives, schools are indoctrinating students with harmful ideologies.
- Georgia law protects parents’ rights to be involved in their children’s education.

Key Facts

- After Lindsey expressed her concerns about this book to the school, she noticed she was locked out of her teacher account and then she later spoke with the principal who informed her she was being terminated.
- The Georgia Parents Bill of Rights gives Lindsey the right to “review all instructional materials intended for use”.
- The law also protects Lindsey’s right to object to any instructional materials that are used in her children’s education, which is precisely what she did.
- Lindsey was asking for her own kids to be excused from the reading time, because she did not want them to be taught things that violated her family’s beliefs.

The Bottom Line: Teachers shouldn’t be fired for expressing genuine concern about what is being taught in schools – especially when it’s being taught to their own children.