

FERPA

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student records. The law pertains to students attending a school of Higher Education approved by the Department of Education.

FERPA gives certain rights to parents regarding their children's educational records. These rights are relinquished once a child reaches the age of 18 or attend a post-secondary (above high school level) school.

If a child would like to give his/her parents rights to educational records, the student must fill out a "Release of Information" form listing the names of the parents. This form can be found at the school.

These rights are as follows:

1. The right to review and inspect the student's education record maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of student records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for the student to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies made.
2. The right to request that the school correct records which they feel to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the student has the right to a formal hearing. If after the hearing, the school still decides not to amend the record, the student has the right to place a statement with the record about the information in question.
3. Normally, a student must fill out a written request to release any information contained in their record. However, FERPA allows disclosure of student records in the following situations:
 - School officials with legitimate educational interest.
 - Other schools to which a student is transferring.
 - Specified officials for audits or evaluation purposes.
 - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student.
 - Organizations conducted certain studies on behalf of the school.
 - Accrediting organizations.
 - To comply with judicial orders or a lawfully issued subpoena.
 - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.
 - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law.

Schools may also disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, the school must tell the student and allow the student a reasonable amount of time to request the information not be released.

For additional information, you may call 1-800-USA-LEARN or contact authorities at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington D.C. 20202