

POLICY

2012 7240
Students 1 of 3

SUBJECT: STUDENT RECORDS: ACCESS AND CHALLENGE

Student Records

The School District shall comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Under its provisions, "parents/guardians and noncustodial parent(s), whose rights are not limited by court order or formal agreement, of a student under eighteen (18), or a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older or who is attending an institution of post-secondary education, have a right to inspect and review any and all official records, files, and data, including all material that is incorporated into each student's cumulative record folder and intended for school use or to be available to parties outside the school or school system and specifically including, but not necessarily limited to, identifying data; academic work completed; level of achievement (grades, standardized achievement test scores); attendance data; scores on standardized intelligence, aptitude, and psychological tests; interest inventory results; health data; family background information; teacher or counselor ratings and observations; and verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns."

Access to Student Records

The Board directs that administrative regulations and procedures be formulated to comply with the provisions of federal law relating to the availability of student records. The purpose of such regulations and procedures shall be to make available to the parents/guardians of students and noncustodial parent(s) whose rights are not limited by court order or formal agreement, or students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older or who are attending an institution of post-secondary education, student records, and files on students, and to ensure the confidentiality of such records with respect to third parties.

Challenge to Student Records

Under the law, parents/guardians of a student under the age of eighteen (18), or a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older or who is attending an institution of post-secondary education, shall have an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the school records, to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of students, and to provide an opportunity for the correction or deletion of any such inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data contained therein.

(Continued)

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Education Records

The term "education records" is defined as all records, files, documents and other materials containing information directly related to a student; and maintained by the education agency or institution, or by a person acting for such agency or institution (34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 99.3). This includes all records regardless of medium, including, but not limited to, handwriting, videotape or audiotape, electronic or computer files, film, print, microfilm, and microfiche.

In addition, for students who attend a public school district, all records pertaining to services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are considered "education records" under FERPA. As such, they are subject to the confidentiality provisions of both Acts.

Personal notes made by teachers or other staff, on the other hand, are not considered education records if they are:

- a) Kept in the sole possession of the maker;
- b) Not accessible or revealed to any other person except a temporary substitute; and
- c) Used only as a memory aid.

Records created and maintained by a law enforcement unit for law enforcement purposes are also excluded.

Release of Information to the Noncustodial Parent/Foster Parents

The District may presume that the noncustodial parent has the authority to request information concerning his/her child and release such information upon request. If the custodial parent wishes to limit the noncustodial parent's access to the records, it would be his/her responsibility to obtain and present to the school a legally binding instrument that prevents the release of said information.

Absent written request from a non-custodial parent and approval by the building principal and the Superintendent or his/her designee, the District shall not be obligated to forward to a non-custodial parent school materials not deemed by the District to be of sufficient significance to mail the custodial parent.

A student's foster parents may only access his/her education records with specific written permission from the appropriate governmental authority.

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SUBJECT: STUDENT RECORDS: ACCESS AND CHALLENGE (Cont'd.)

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 United States Code (USC) Section 1232g
34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 99
7.2-1 Education Records 8/24/76
7.2-2 Student grades 10/26/71
Adopted 3/6/12