

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

All information in the student files would be available to any governing state agency, accrediting agency and federal agency during the process of reviewing the school's normal approvals, accreditations, eligibilities, and other matters conducted by those agencies without the specific consent of the student and/or parents.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

1. Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

2. Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

3. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

School officials with legitimate educational interest; Other schools to which a student is Transferring; Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes; Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student; Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school; Accrediting organizations; To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena; Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law. Schools may 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, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school. For additional information, you may call 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call 1-800- 437-0833. Or you may contact us at the following address: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

Copyright Infringement

Is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code) These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505. Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov.

Peer to Peer file sharing: Students authorized to utilize the institutional electronic equipment for purposes of conducting research, practical work, writing essays, doing homework assignments or in any general use of the equipment for course related work, are strictly unauthorized to copy or distribute any copyrighted material and any violations will subject the individual violator (staff member, non-staff member or student) to civil and criminal liabilities. The first violation will be punished by removing any authorized privileged use of any institutional equipment, if the violation includes the use of individually owned equipment, the individual will not be allowed to bring in his/her personal equipment into the school premises. Second violation the staff member may be terminated or the student may be expelled from school. This decision will be taken by the school administration. The institution conducts annual evaluations of the procedures in place to prevent any violations of copyrighted materials observing the need of the students to have access to the institutional network. **The institution will keep a log summarizing violations reported and disciplinary actions taken.**