

Students

Student Records; Confidentiality

Educational records, defined as records directly related to a student, will be kept for each student and will reflect the physical, emotional, social and academic aspects of a student's development in the educational process.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to comply with the legal state and federal requirements regarding the confidentiality, access to and amendment of student records. The procedures for the confidentiality of student records shall be consistent with federal statutes, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended, and its implemented and revised regulations, The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and the Connecticut General Statutes.

Safeguards shall be established by the school administration to protect the student and the student's family from invasion of privacy in the collection, maintenance and dissemination of information, and to provide accessibility to recorded information by those legally entitled thereto. Access to inspect or review a student's educational record or any part thereof may include the right to receive copies under limited circumstances.

For the purposes of this policy:

“Parent” means a natural parent, an adopted, or a legal guardian or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or guardian. If parents are divorced or legally separated the parent granted custody and the parent not granted custody of a minor child both have the right of access to the academic, medical, hospital, or other health records of the child, unless a court order prohibits access. Whenever a student has attained the age of 18 years or is attending an institution of post-secondary education, the permission or consent required of, and the rights accorded to, the parents or guardians of the student shall thereafter only be required of, and accorded to, the student.

“Student” means an individual who is or has been “in attendance” in person at an educational agency or institution for whom education records are maintained. It also includes those situations in which students “attend” classes but are not physically present, including attendance by videoconference, satellite, Internet, or other electronic information and telecommunication technologies.

“Student record” means any item of information directly related to an identifiable student, other than directory information, which is maintained by a school district or required to be maintained by an employee in the performance of his/her duties whether recorded in handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm or microfiche. Student records include information relative to an individual student gathered within or without the school system and

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maintained within the school system, regardless of the physical form in which it is maintained. Any information maintained for the purpose of review by a second party is considered a student record. Records that pertain to an individual's previous attendance as a student are "education records" under FERPA regardless of when they were created or received within the school system.

The student record shall not include informal notes related to a student compiled by a school officer or employee which remain in the sole possession of the maker and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute. Records of the law enforcement unit of the District or school are not considered student records.

"Law enforcement unit" means an individual office, department, division, or other component of an education agency or institution that is officially authorized or designated by that agency or institution to (1) enforce laws or refer matters of law enforcement to appropriate authorities, or (2) maintain the physical security and safety of the agency or institution.

"Substitute" means a person who performs the duties of the individual who made the notes on a temporary basis, and does not refer to a person who permanently succeeds the maker of the notes in his or her position.

"School Official" means a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member, including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel, a person serving on the Board of Education, a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist), or a parent or student serving on an official committee such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that all requirements under federal and state statutes shall be carried out by the district. He/She will develop procedures (administrative regulations) providing for the following:

1. Annually informing parents of their rights.
2. Permitting parents to inspect and review educational records, including, at least, a statement of the procedure to be followed by a parent or eligible student who requests to inspect and review the educational records, with an understanding that the procedure may not deny access to educational records; a description of the circumstances in which the district feels it has a legitimate cause to deny a request for a copy of such records; a schedule of fees for copies; and a listing of the types and locations of education records maintained by the school and the titles and addresses of school officials responsible for those records.

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3. Not disclosing personally identifiable information from a student's education records without the prior written consent of the student's parent, except as otherwise permitted by administrative regulations; including at least a statement of whether the school will disclose personally identifiable information from the records to other school officials within the school who have been determined by the school to have legitimate educational interest, and, if so, a specification of the criteria for determining which parties are "school officials" and what the school considers to be a "legitimate educational interest"; and a specification of the personally identifiable information to be designated as directory information.
4. Maintaining the record of disclosures of personally identifiable information from a student's education records and permitting a parent to inspect that record.
5. Providing a parent with an opportunity to seek the correction of the student's education records through a request to amend the records or a hearing, and permitting the parent or an eligible student to place a statement in the education records of the student.
6. Guaranteeing access to student records to authorized persons within five (5) days following the date of request.
7. Assuring security of student records.
8. Enumerating and describing the student records maintained by the school system.
9. Annually informing parents under what conditions that their prior consent is not required to disclose information.
10. Ensuring the orderly retention and disposition, per applicable state statutes, of the districts' student records.
11. Notifying parents of secondary school students that it is required to release the student's name, address and telephone listing to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning upon request. Parents or eligible students may request that the District not release this information, and the District will comply with the request.
12. Notifying parents annually of the District's policy on the collection or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose, including arrangements to protect student privacy that are provided by the agency in the event of such collection, disclosure or use.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 1-19(b)(11) Access to public records. Exempt records.
 7-109 Destruction of documents
 10-15b Access of parent or guardians to student's records
 10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.

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Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

10-209 Records not to be public. 10-221b boards of education to establish written uniform policy re: treatment of recruiters.

11-81 Retention, destruction, and transfer of documents.

11-8b Transfer or disposal of public records. State Library Board to adopt regulations.

46b-56 (e) Access to Records of Minors

Connecticut Public Records Administration Schedule V-Disposition of Education Records (Revised 1983).

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g.).

Dept. of Education 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45 FR 30802) regs.

Implementing FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Education provision act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)-parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records, as amended 11121196, and final Rule 34 CFR Part 99, December 9, 2008).

USA Patriot Act of 2001, PL 107-56, 115 Stat. 272, Sec 507, 18 U.S.C. §2332b(g)(5)(B) and 2331.

PL 107-110 “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” Sections 5208 and 9528.

Owasso Independent Sch. Dist. No. 1-OJ v. Falvo, 534 U.S. 426 (2002).

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EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Easton, Redding and Region #9 Public Schools
Easton and Redding, Connecticut**

Model Notification of Rights Under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Institutions

[Note: Under the procedures outlined in the policy, the following information will be disclosed on an annual basis to parents of students currently in attendance, or eligible students currently in attendance.]

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g, et. Seq., affords parents and eligible students (i.e., students over 18, emancipated minors, and those attending post-secondary educational institutions) certain rights with respect to the student's educational records.

They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within forty-five (45) calendar days from the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal (or appropriate school official) will make arrangements for access and notify the parents or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parents or eligible student believe are inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights.

Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights. Parents or an eligible student should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identifying the part of the record the parents or eligible student want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parents or eligible student, the District will notify the parents or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parents or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to a school official with legitimate interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist) or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Contractors, consultants, volunteers, and other parties to whom a school has outsourced services or functions are considered "school officials" who may have access to student records, without consent, subject to the following conditions:

- The party is under the direct control of the school.
- The party is subject to the same conditions governing the use and redisclosure of educational records applicable to other school officials.
- The contractor must ensure that only individuals with legitimate educational interests, as determined by the district or school, obtain access to the educational records. The contractor may not redisclose personally identifiable information without consent unless the District or school has authorized the redisclosure under a FERPA exception and the district or school records the subsequent disclosure.

Upon request, the District will disclose a student's educational record without consent to officials of another public school, including a public charter school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. (Note: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202-4605

5. Unless notified in writing by a parent or eligible student to the contrary within two weeks of the date of this notice, the school district will be permitted to disclose “Directory Information” concerning a student. Directory information means information contained in an educational record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the parent’s name and/or e-mail address, the student’s name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, photographic and video images, date and place of birth, major field(s) of study, grade level participation in school-sponsored activities or athletics, weight and height (if the student is a member of an athletic team), dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

The written objection to the disclosure of directory information shall be good for only one year. School districts are legally obligated to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon request, with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary school students, unless a parent or eligible student objects to such disclosure in writing. Such objection shall be in writing and shall be effective for one year. In all other circumstances, information designated as directory information will not be released.

6. Pursuant to federal law, military recruiters and institutions of higher learning may request and receive the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all high school students, unless their parents or guardians notify the school not to release this information. Please notify the district in writing if you do not want this information released.
7. Pursuant to a court issued “ex parte” order, personally identifiable information in the student’s records may be released to the Attorney General of the United States or his/her designee in response to an “ex parte” order in connection with the investigation or persecution of an act of domestic or international terrorism crimes.
8. Schools may release information received under a community notification program concerning a student who is required to register as a sex offender in the State, with consent.

Easton, Redding Region #9 Public Schools
Easton and Redding, Connecticut

RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL HIV-RELATED INFORMATION

I hereby authorize _____ to release confidential
[name of individual who holds the information]
HIV-related information, as defined in Connecticut General Statute §19a-581, concerning

_____ to the following personnel:
[name of protected individual]

1. School Nurse
2. School Administrators(s)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. Student's Teacher(s)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. Paraprofessional(s)
5. Director of Special Services
6. Other(s)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

This authorization shall be valid for:

1. The student's stay at _____ School
2. The current school year
3. Other _____ (specify period)

I provide this information based on my responsibility to consent for the health care of
_____. I understand that such information shall be held
confidential by the persons authorized here to receive such information, except as otherwise
provided by law.

Name

Relationship to Student

Date