

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Notification of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent 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 education records in the event that the parent or eligible student believes that one or more of the student's records are inaccurate. The parent or eligible student should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent 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 parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- (3) The right to provide written consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is defined as a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or provider with whom the school 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 he/she needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

A second exception which requires disclosure without consent involves a transfer of a student's disciplinary records when a student transfers to another public or private school as specified below. When a pupil transfers to a public school district from another public school district, all information in the student's record related to disciplinary actions taken against the student by the school district and any information the school district has obtained pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-40, Disclosure of Juvenile Information, is provided to the receiving public school district, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19a and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5(e)10iii through v. The written consent of the parent or adult student shall not be required as a condition of the transfer of this information; however, written notice of the transfer of such documents shall be provided to the parent or the adult student.

When a pupil transfers to a private school, which includes all sectarian or nonsectarian nonprofit institutional day or residential schools that provide education for students placed by their parents and that are controlled by other than public authority, all student disciplinary records, with respect to suspensions or expulsions, shall be provided by the public school district of residence to the private school upon written request from the private school, in the same manner as such records would be provided by a public school district of residence to a public school district, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 6301, Title IV(A)IV § 4155 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the *School District* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

*Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901*

See Reverse Side for Annual Parent Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)