

ANNUAL PARENT NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (“PPRA”), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, and New Jersey statute 18A:36-34 require the Washington Township Public Schools to notify parents and obtain their consent or allow them to opt their child(ren) out of participating in certain student surveys, analyses, or evaluations. Additionally, the Washington Township Board of Education has developed and adopted policies, which set forth the guidelines for the administration of surveys and access to survey materials. In accordance with the above statutes and policies, the school district will notify parents of any survey, analysis, or evaluation that is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (“ED”) that reveals information regarding one or more of the following nine areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents;
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility;
9. Social security number.

The above referenced policy and statutes provide parents and eligible students with the following rights:

1. Right to consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the protected areas listed above (“protected information survey”);
2. Right to receive notice, at least annually, and an opportunity to opt a student out of the following:
 - a. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 - b. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
3. Right to inspect the following, upon request and before administration or use:
 - a. Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;
 - b. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 - c. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The School District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The School District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this direct notification requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey are asked to submit a request to their child's building principal. The building principal will arrange a time and place in which these materials may be reviewed. Parents have the right to review a survey and/or survey-related instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

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