

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 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. The 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. The 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. The right to inspect the following, upon request and before administration or use:
 - a. Protected information surveys of students;
 - 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.

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