Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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.

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."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school.

- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading.

- Schools may disclose some information, without parental consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

    o School officials with legitimate educational interest;
    o Other schools to which a student is transferring;
    o Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
    o Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
    o Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
    o Accrediting organizations;
    o To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
    o Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
    o State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Additionally, 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 unless the parent and/or eligible student may request that the school not disclose the directory information.

Schools must release directory information to recruiters from the armed services upon request. Parents must notify their child's school in writing if they do not want his/her directory information released to the military recruiters.