



The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Your Education Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The Act applies to any public or private elementary, secondary, or post-secondary school and any state or local education agency that receives federal funds.

The Act has two parts. First, it gives students the right to inspect and review their own education records, request corrections, halt the release of personally identifiable information, and obtain a copy of their institution's policy concerning access to educational records. (20 U.S.C.S. § 1232g(a)). Second, it prohibits educational institutions from disclosing "personally identifiable information in education records" without the written consent of the student, or if the student is a minor, the student's parents. (20 U.S.C.S. § 1232g(b)). Schools that fail to comply with FERPA risk losing federal funding.

There are several exceptions that would allow the release of student records to certain parties in certain conditions. To read more visit <https://epic.org/privacy/student/ferpa/>

Obtaining Educational Records

Parents have a right to obtain a free copy of their children's education records. These rights transfer to the child when he or she reaches the age of 18. A school must accommodate any inspection request of education records within 45 days.

Post-Secondary Students

Students enrolled in a post-secondary institution receiving federal funding are also protected under FERPA and have a right to review their own education records.

Source:

For more information please visit the Electronic Privacy Information Center at <https://epic.org/privacy/student/ferpa/> or the U.S Department of Education website at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

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