

Fowler Public Schools

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act is commonly referred to as The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act 20 U.S.C. 1232g (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA generally does not apply to most private elementary and secondary schools, as they do not typically receive U.S. Department of Education funding.

The educational interests of students require the collection, retention, and use of data about individuals and groups of students while ensuring individual rights of privacy. The school District will maintain educational records of students for legitimate educational purposes.

School records are confidential and information from them shall not be released except as provided by law. The information contained in school student records shall be kept current, accurate, clear, and relevant. The District may release directory information in accord with law, provided parent(s)/guardian(s) are given the opportunity to object to the release of this information. Directory information for this District includes the following information: the student's name, picture, major field of study, participation in recognized activities and sports and related information, grade placement, honors and awards received, and telephone number (for military recruiters only).

Directory information may be provided to persons or organizations for non-profit making purposes when deemed appropriate by the building principal, unless the parents of the student restrict the information in writing to the building principal.

The District shall inform students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) annually and upon initial enrollment of their rights under FERPA and Board policy with respect to student records, and of the procedures for exercising those rights. The Superintendent shall provide the appropriate training to all staff that has access to student records.

Pursuant to federal law, a form will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) that allow them to opt out of the disclosure of directory information to the military recruiters, and that informs the recipients that failure to complete and return the form will result in the disclosure of the information to military recruiters.

As provided in PA39, 2002 (MCL 380.1139) a school must provide armed forces recruiters and service academies with a student's name, address, and telephone number (if listed.)

The District shall protect the rights of privacy of students and their families in connection with any surveys or data-gathering activities conducted, assisted, or authorized by the Board or Superintendent.