

## Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students age 18 or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records.

**(1) The right to inspect and review** the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school principal or other appropriate school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

**(2) The right to request amendment** of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students may write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If DCPS decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

**(3) The right to consent (in writing) to disclosures of personally identifiable information** contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. For example, DCPS discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, when such disclosure is requested for purposes of the student’s enrollment or transfer. In addition, FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent to school officials whom DCPS has determined to have legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by DCPS as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person or company with whom DCPS has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); an official of another school system where a student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled; or a parent, student or other volunteer serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

**(4) The right to withhold disclosure of directory information.** At its discretion, DCPS may disclose basic “directory information” that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy without the consent of parents or eligible students in accordance with the provisions of District law and FERPA. Directory information includes:

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|---|---|
| A. Student Name   | F. Weight and Height of Members of Athletic Teams |
| B. Student Address  | G. Diplomas and Awards Received                   |
| C. Student Telephone Listing                                    | H. Student’s Date and Place of Birth              |
| D. Name of School Attending                                     | I. Names of Schools Previously Attended           |
| E. Participation in Officially Recognized Activities and Sports | J. Dates of Attendance                            |

Parents or eligible students may instruct DCPS to withhold any or all of the information identified above (i) by completing the attached “Release of Student Directory Information” Form also available at [www.dcps.dc.gov/enroll](http://www.dcps.dc.gov/enroll) or your local school).

**(5) The right to file a complaint** with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by DCPS to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202.

## Release of Student Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that requires DCPS, with certain exceptions, to get your permission before disclosing personally identifiable information from education records. However, DCPS may disclose basic “directory information” that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy without your consent. The primary purpose of directory information disclosure is to allow DCPS to include this type of information in certain school publications such as pamphlets for drama productions, graduation programs, honor rolls or sports team activity sheets for football, basketball, etc. Directory information can also be disclosed to outside organizations such as federal and state agencies offering jobs and educational benefits, media sources, and companies that make class rings and publish yearbooks.

The information listed below has been designated as directory information under District of Columbia law and FERPA, and may therefore be released at the discretion of DCPS. You have the right to instruct DCPS that it may not release any or all of this information without obtaining your prior written consent by completing this form. Your decision on this form will be valid for the remainder of the current school year. **A new Release of Student Directory Information form must be completed each School Year.**

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Please place a check mark on the line beside any directory information items listed below that you do not want DCPS to disclose without your consent, if any.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Diplomas and Awards Received
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Telephone Listing	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Name of School Attending	<input type="checkbox"/> Student’s Date and Place of Birth
<input type="checkbox"/> Participation in Officially	<input type="checkbox"/> Names of Schools Previously Attended
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognized Activities and Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Dates of Attendance
<input type="checkbox"/> Weight and Height of Members of Athletic Team	

By signing below I am giving written notification to DCPS that it may not disclose the directory information items I have placed a check mark beside above unless I give prior written consent. I understand that such information may still be disclosed by DCPS if disclosure is otherwise permissible under FERPA.

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Student Name (please print)

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Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian or Student (if at least 18 years old)

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Date

**\*If this form is not returned by September 15, it will be assumed that the above information may be designated as directory information for the remainder of the school year. \***

## Parents Right-To---Know Notification

Dear Parent:

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) is notifying you that you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers. DCPS is happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask for the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met District of Columbia qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which District of Columbia qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the teacher's certification.

You may also ask, at any time, whether your child is being provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Please direct teacher and paraprofessional qualification requests, and any other questions related to this notice to DC Public Schools at [dcps.hrdataandcompliance@dc.gov](mailto:dcps.hrdataandcompliance@dc.gov) or fax (202) 535-2483.



### Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

This notice informs parents/guardians and eligible students (emancipated minors or those 18 or older) of their rights regarding the conduct of surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and the conduct of certain physical exams. These rights are spelled out in the *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment* (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98). The law and regulations require educational institutions, such as the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) to notify parents and eligible students of their right to—

1. *Consent* before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE):
  - Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  - Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  - Sexual behavior or attitudes;
  - Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  - Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  - Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; and
  - Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
2. *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of—*
  - Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  - Any nonemergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance administered by the school or its agent and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law; and
  - Any activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others. (This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.)
3. *Receive notice* of a parent’s right to inspect, upon request and before administration or usage of—
  - Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;
  - Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  - Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

DCPS has developed and adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. In addition, DCPS provides public access to its Survey Calendar, which notifies parents and eligible students, at the beginning of each school year and on a continuing basis, of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities (along with an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in the activity)—

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution;
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by USDE; and
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening as defined above.

The DCPS policies related to PPRA rights, as well as the Survey Calendar, can be accessed by visiting the following website: <http://dcps.dc.gov/page/conduct-research-or-obtain-confidential-data>. In addition, parents/guardians and eligible students may also contact their neighborhood school for DCPS policies related to PPRA rights and the Survey Calendar.

Parents/guardians and eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the—

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