Ascend Public Charter Schools
Parents’ bill of rights for data privacy and security

Your child’s personal information is protected by both state and federal law. Under New York State’s education law, parents and legal guardians of students at Ascend have the following rights:

(1) Your student’s personally identifiable information cannot be sold or released for any commercial purposes.

(2) If your child is under age 18, you have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of your child’s education record.

(3) Safeguards that meet industry standards and best practices must be in place when your child’s personally identifiable information is stored or transferred to third parties with whom we partner to serve our students. These practices include encryption, firewalls, and password protection.

(4) Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to Carl-Anthony Watson, chief operating officer at carl.watson@ascendlearning.org.

A complete list of all student data elements collected by the State is available for public review here or by writing to the Office of Information and Reporting Services, New York State Education Department, Room 863 EBA, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234.

The federal law, through the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also affords parents and students older than 18 certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. You can access Ascend’s FERPA notice here.

Supplemental information regarding third-party contractors

To serve our students, Ascend enters into agreements with third-parties. When these parties receive personally identifiable information from student, teacher, or school director data, our contracts will include:

• The exclusive purposes for which the student, teacher, or school director data will be used;
• How the third party will ensure that subcontractors, persons, or entities who receive the student, teacher, or school director data will abide by data protection and security requirements;
• When the agreement expires and what happens to the student, teacher, or school director data upon expiration of the agreement;
• If and how a parent, student, teacher, or school director may challenge the accuracy of the data collected; and
• Where the student, teacher, or school director data will be stored, and the security protections taken to ensure such data will be protected, including whether it will be encrypted.