

NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA AND NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Dear Parent or Student:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal/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 the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record believed to be inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal or appropriate school official, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by a parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him/her of the 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 to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student participating in a school service program or 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 professional responsibility.

Rush Springs will forward records to the requesting school in which the child is attempting to enroll upon request.

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4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

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

5. FERPA also requires that Rush Springs Public Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the district may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the district to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
The annual yearbook;
Honor roll or other recognition lists;
Graduation programs; and
Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

If you do not want the Rush Springs Public Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing within ten (10) days of receiving this notice. The district has designated the following information as directory information, which may be released without obtaining parental consent: **(NOTE: The district may, but does not have to, include all the information listed.)**

Student's name, address, telephone listing, and date and place of birth

Parent or lawful custodian's name, address, and telephone listing

Major field of study and grade level classification (example: elementary, 7th grade, sophomore)

Student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports

Weight and height of members of athletic teams

Photograph

Electronic mail address

Dates of attendance, dates of enrollment, withdrawal, re-entry

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Diplomas, certificates, awards, and honors received

Most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student

6. Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.
7. Pursuant to a court issued "ex parte" order, personally identifiable information in the student's records may be released to the Attorney General of the United States or his/her designee in response to an "ex parte" order issued in connection with the investigation or prosecution of terrorism crimes.