Contact Information

For further information about FERPA, contact the Department's Family Policy Compliance Office.

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20202-5920
202-260-3887

For quick, informal responses to routine questions about FERPA, parents may also e-mail the Family Policy Compliance Office at FERPA.Customer@ED.Gov.

Additional information and guidance may be found at FPCO's Web site at: http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/index.html.

Does FERPA give me a right to see the education records of my son or daughter who is in college?

When a student turns 18 years old or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, all rights afforded to you as a parent under FERPA transfer to the student ("eligible student"). However, FERPA provides ways in which a school may—but is not required to—share information from an eligible student’s education records with parents, without the student’s consent. For example:

- Schools may disclose education records to parents if the student is claimed as a dependent for tax purposes.
- Schools may disclose education records to parents if a health or safety emergency involves their son or daughter.
- Schools may inform parents if the student, if he or she is under age 21, has violated any law or policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- A school official may generally share with a parent information that is based on that official’s personal knowledge or observation of the student.
What is directory information?

Directory information is information that schools disclose, such as a student's name, address, telephone number, and grades. If you object to the disclosure of directory information, you should contact your student's school or district to request that students in the directory be excluded from such disclosure.

Who gets to see my child's education records?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents the right to review and request copies of their child's education records. Other than you, no one else has this right unless the parent or student has given written consent to the disclosure.