

Student Privacy: FERPA and COPPA

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act — FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, commonly known as **FERPA**, is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents/guardians certain rights regarding their student's education records. These rights transfer to the student when the student turns 18 years old or attends a school beyond the high school level. A student who has these rights is known as an "eligible student."

Under FERPA, parents/guardians and eligible students have the right to:

- Inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school.
- Request that a school correct records they believe are inaccurate or misleading.
- Provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except in situations where FERPA allows disclosure without consent.
- File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with FERPA.

The District may disclose student records without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official may include district employees, school administrators, teachers, support staff, contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties performing services or functions for the District, provided they have a legitimate educational need to access the information. FERPA requires districts to include criteria for "school officials" and "legitimate educational interest" in their annual notification.

The District may also designate certain information as directory information, which may be released unless the parent/guardian or eligible student has requested that the information not be disclosed. Examples may include a student's name, school, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities or sports, awards received, or other information identified in the District's annual notification. Parents/guardians and eligible students have the right to opt out of the release of directory information.

For more information about FERPA, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office.

Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act — COPPA

The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, commonly known as **COPPA**, is a federal law that applies to operators of websites, apps, and online services that collect personal information from children under the age of 13. COPPA is intended to give parents control over what information is collected from young children online.

In a school setting, students may use approved online educational programs, websites, applications, or digital tools as part of classroom instruction or school-related activities. In some cases, schools may provide consent on behalf of parents for the use of educational technology services when the service is used only for educational purposes and not for commercial purposes. The Federal Trade Commission encourages schools and educational technology providers to make privacy practices available to parents whenever possible.

The District reviews educational technology tools to help ensure that student information is used appropriately and that vendors maintain reasonable privacy and security practices. Student information collected through district-approved educational technology should be used only for authorized educational purposes and should not be sold or used for targeted advertising.

Parents/guardians who have questions about student use of online educational services may contact the school office or District office.

Questions or Concerns

For questions regarding student records, privacy rights, or educational technology privacy practices, please contact:

Shasta Union High School District
530-241-3261
support@suhsd.net