



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: First and Final Reading of Policy FL (LOCAL) – Student Records

SUBMITTED BY: Eduardo Zuñiga **OF:** Assoc. Superintendent Student Support

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: December 20, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the USD Board of Trustees Approve the First and Final Reading of Policy FL (LOCAL) – Student Records

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

STUDENT RECORDS

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COMPREHENSIVE
SYSTEM

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a comprehensive system of student records and reports dealing with all facets of the school program operation and shall ensure through reasonable procedures that records are accessed by authorized persons only, as allowed by this policy. These data and records shall be stored in a safe and secure manner and shall be conveniently retrievable for use by authorized school officials.

CUMULATIVE RECORD

A cumulative record shall be maintained for each student from entrance into District schools until withdrawal or graduation from the District.

This record shall move with the student from school to school and be maintained at the school where currently enrolled until graduation or withdrawal. Records for nonenrolled students shall be retained for the period of time required by law. No permanent records may be destroyed without explicit permission from the Superintendent. [See CPC]

CUSTODIAN OF
RECORDS

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students. The records manager is the custodian of records for students who have withdrawn or graduated. The student handbook made available to all students and parents shall contain a listing of the addresses of District schools, as well as the Superintendent's business address.

TYPES OF EDUCATION
RECORDS

The record custodian shall be responsible for the education records of the District. These records may include:

1. Admissions data, personal and family data, including certification of date of birth.
2. Standardized test data, including intelligence, aptitude, interest, personality, and social adjustment ratings.
3. All achievement records, as determined by tests, recorded grades, and teacher evaluations.
4. All documentation regarding a student's testing history and any accelerated instruction he or she has received, including any documentation of discussion or action by a grade placement committee convened for the student.
5. Health services record, including:
 - a. The results of any tuberculin tests required by the District.
 - b. The findings of screening or health appraisal programs the District conducts or provides. [See FFAA]

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- c. Immunization records. [See FFAB]
6. Attendance records.
7. Student questionnaires.
8. Records of teacher, counselor, or administrative conferences with the student or pertaining to the student.
9. Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns.
10. Copies of correspondence with parents and others concerned with the student.
11. Records transferred from other districts in which the student was enrolled.
12. Records pertaining to participation in extracurricular activities.
13. Information relating to student participation in special programs.
14. Records of fees assessed and paid.
15. Records pertaining to student and parent complaints.
16. Other records that may contribute to an understanding of the student.

ACCESS BY PARENTS

The District shall make a student's records available to the student's parents, as permitted by law. The records custodian or designee shall use reasonable procedures to verify the requestor's identity before disclosing student records containing personally identifiable information.

Records may be reviewed in person during regular school hours without charge upon written request to the records custodian. For in-person viewing, the records custodian or designee shall be available to explain the record and to answer questions. The confidential nature of the student's records shall be maintained at all times, and records to be viewed shall be restricted to use only in the Superintendent's, principal's, or counselor's office, or other restricted area designated by the records custodian. The original copy of the record or any document contained in the cumulative record shall not be removed from the school.

Copies of records are available at a per copy cost, payable in advance. Copies of records must be requested in writing. Parents may be denied copies of records if they fail to follow proper procedures or pay the copying charge. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches and the parents are unable to view the rec-

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ords during regular school hours, upon written request of a parent, one copy of the record shall be provided at no charge.

A parent may continue to have access to his or her child's records under specific circumstances after the student has attained 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education. [See FL(LEGAL)]

ACCESS BY SCHOOL
OFFICIALS

A school official shall be allowed access to student records if he or she has a legitimate educational interest in the records.

For the purposes of this policy, "school officials" shall include:

1. An employee, Board member, or agent of the District, including an attorney, a consultant, a contractor, a volunteer, a school resource officer, and any outside service provider used by the District to perform institutional services.
2. An employee of a cooperative of which the District is a member or of a facility with which the District contracts for placement of students with disabilities.
3. A contractor retained by a cooperative of which the District is a member or by a facility with which the District contracts for placement of students with disabilities.
4. A parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

All contractors provided with student records shall follow the same rules as employees concerning privacy of the records and shall return the records upon completion of the assignment.

A school official has a "legitimate educational interest" in a student's records when he or she is:

1. Working with the student;
2. Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities;
3. Compiling statistical data;
4. Reviewing an education record to fulfill the official's professional responsibility; or
5. Investigating or evaluating programs.

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TRANSCRIPTS AND
TRANSFERS OF
RECORDS

The District may request transcripts from previously attended schools for students transferring into District schools; however, the ultimate responsibility for obtaining transcripts from sending schools rests with the parent or student, if 18 or older.

For purposes of a student's enrollment or transfer, the District shall promptly forward in accordance with the time line provided in law education records upon request to officials of other schools or school systems in which the student intends to enroll or enrolls. [See FD(LEGAL), REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION] The District may return an education record to the school identified as the source of the record.

RECORDS
RESPONSIBILITY FOR
STUDENTS IN SPECIAL
EDUCATION

The director of special education shall be responsible for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information in records of students in special education.

A current listing of names and positions of persons who have access to records of students in special education is maintained at the principals' and school-support teams' offices.

PROCEDURE TO
AMEND RECORDS

Within 15 District business days of the record custodian's receipt of a request to amend records, the District shall notify the parents in writing of its decision on the request and, if the request is denied, of their right to a hearing. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within ten District business days after the request is received.

Parents shall be notified in advance of the date, time, and place of the hearing. An administrator who is not responsible for the contested records and who does not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing shall conduct the hearing. The parents shall be given a full and fair opportunity to present evidence and, at their own expense, may be assisted or represented at the hearing.

The parents shall be notified of the decision in writing within ten District business days of the hearing. The decision shall be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing and shall include a summary of the evidence and reasons for the decision. If the decision is to deny the request, the parents shall be informed that they have 30 District business days within which to exercise their right to place in the record a statement commenting on the contested information and/or stating any reason for disagreeing with the District's decision.

DIRECTORY
INFORMATION

Directory information for District students has been classified into two separate categories:

1. Items for use only for school-sponsored purposes; and
2. Items for all other purposes.

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SCHOOL-
SPONSORED
PURPOSES

For the following school-sponsored purposes—all District publications and announcements—directory information shall include student name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; and enrollment status.

ALL OTHER
PURPOSES

When requested by a child welfare, juvenile justice or law enforcement agency for the purpose of contacting the student's parent or guardian, the District has designated the following additional categories of information as directory information: parent or guardian name, address and telephone number.

The school shall not release directory information except for the purposes indicated above and for the following purposes and/or entities:

- (1) **Disclosure relating to school sponsored/school affiliated purposes; and**
- (2) **Disclosure to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, but only for secondary students.**
- (3) **Disclosure to a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform student services;**
- (4) **Disclosure to the Texas Education Agency.**

Additionally, the District shall not release directory information to any charter school as defined by the Texas Education Code.

**VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE
RECORDINGS**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does not require the District to provide a parent or student with copies of video surveillance recordings depicting a student. A parent whose child is depicted in a video surveillance recording that constitutes an education record of that child may inspect the recording during regular District business hours through an Open Records Request.

[For information regarding Special Education Video/Audio Monitoring, see EHBAF(LEGAL) and (LOCAL).]