

Notice for Directory Information: FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Mecklenburg County Public Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Mecklenburg County Public School 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 Mecklenburg County Public Schools to include this type of information from your child's education record in certain school publications.

Examples include:

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

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 (LEAs) 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 LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.(1)

If you do not want Mecklenburg County 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 15 days of receiving this notice. Mecklenburg County Public Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's Name
- Participation in officially organized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Weight & Height of members of athletic teams
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, & awards received
- Date & place of birth
- Major field of study
- Date of attendance
- Grade level
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provide funding for the Nation's armed forces.