

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An “eligible student” under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution at any age.) These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the institution receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The institution official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the institution official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the institution to amend a record should write to the official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the institution decides not to amend the record as requested, the institution will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the institution discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The institution discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is typically a person employed by the institution in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a PCHS employee, a volunteer or contractor outside of the institution who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the institution.

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

Student Privacy Policy Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) designates certain student information as “Directory Information” and gives the institution the right to disclose such information without having to ask students’ permission. The items listed below as “Directory Information” may be released for any purpose at the discretion of the institution. Under the provisions of FERPA, students have the right to withhold the disclosure of any or all of the categories of information listed below. **The following information will be released unless students specifically request that their information be withheld:**

Directory Information: Name, address, telephone number, email address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, previous institution(s) attended, major field of study (program), enrollment status, degrees and awards, past and present participation in officially recognized activities.

Career Services: Students approaching graduation and working with career services on career planning, job interviewing and resume preparation authorize release of the following records for a period of fifteen months after graduation: the resume, identifying data, academic work completed, immigration status (if applicable), and authorize career services to verify information graduates provide regarding their employment. At no time is compensation information released or published.

To Withhold Information

To have directory or career services information withheld, students must submit a written request to the Registrar. Once filed, this request becomes a permanent part of the student’s record and no information may be released until the student instructs the PCHS otherwise.