



**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Annual Notice for Disclosure of School Directory Information**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that requires school districts, with certain exceptions, to obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's educational records. However, the school may disclose some student information without written consent when the information is designated "Directory Information" unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures.

The Tahoma School District has designated the following as Directory Information:

Student Name	Degrees, honors & awards received	Grade Level/Dates of Attendance
Address	Most recent educational agency or institution attended	Photograph
Phone Number	Participation in school-sponsored activities and sports	E-Mail Address
Date/Place of Birth	Weight and height of members of athletic teams	Major Field of Study

The primary use for Directory Information by the district is to include this type of information in certain school publications. It is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Examples of school publications are:

- A playbill or program, showing your child's role in a drama or school production
- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll or other recognition lists published at school or in the newspaper
- Graduation program
- Sports statistics listed in programs, such as football which may include height and weight of team members
- School or district website

Directory Information can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Other schools the student is seeking to attend (transcripts, etc.)
- Class ring manufacturers
- State or federal authorities auditing, evaluation programs or enforcing state or federal laws
- A court by order of a subpoena

Two federal laws require school districts that receive assistance under the No Child Left Behind Act to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three Directory Information categories (names, addresses & telephone numbers) unless parents have notified the district that they do not want their child's information disclosed without their prior written consent (secondary students only -- please refer to Access to Student Information by Military or College Recruiters Form)

If you DO NOT want the district to disclose Directory Information about your child without your written consent, you must notify the school in writing by **September 28 2008**. Your request will be on file through the **2008-2009** school year and will need to be completed annually. Contact the school office to request an exclusion form.



**NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER
THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)
for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School principal [or appropriate official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or 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.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

[Optional] Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

* State Law Qualification: Although FERPA allows 45 days to honor a request, the state policy records law requires an appropriate response to a "public records" request within five business days. RCW 42.17.320

NOTE: In addition, an institution may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by §99.37 of the regulations, with its annual notification of rights under FERPA.

Issued August 2008