

Millville Board of Education District Policy Manual

Students

Series 5000

Pupil Records

Policy 5125

Date Adopted: June 1979

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The Board of Education shall conform in all respects to the requirements of state and federal law regarding gathering, maintaining, securing, disclosing, allowing access to and destruction of student records.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for the security of student records maintained in the school district. He/she shall formulate and the Board shall review administrative procedures to guarantee the safety and security of all student records, and to provide authorized persons and organizations access to these records at a convenient place and time within the limits stipulated by law, i.e., within 10 days of the request but prior to any review or hearing conducted in accordance with state Board of Education regulations.

Student records shall include all those mandated by the New Jersey administrative code or state statutes, or authorized by administrative directives, and such permitted records as the Board of Education shall authorize by resolution at a regular public meeting in order to promote the educational welfare of the student. Records so authorized must comply with code standards as to relevance and objectivity.

The administration shall have available a description of the types of student records it has authorized certified school personnel to collect and maintain.

Student records shall contain only such information as is relevant to the education of the student, and is objectively based on the personal observations or knowledge of the originator of the record.

All anecdotal information and assessment reports collected on a student shall be dated and signed by the individual who originated the data.

Parents/guardians and adult students shall be notified annually in writing of their rights in regard to student records. Such rights include:

- A. Notification of rights in writing, in dominant language of parent/adult student, if possible. When the parent or adult student's dominant language is not English, or the parent/adult student is deaf, the district shall provide interpretation of the record in the dominant spoken or sign language;
- B. Copies of applicable state and federal laws and local policies made available on request;
- C. Should the parental rights of one or the other parent/guardian be terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction, it is the responsibility of the person/agency having legal custody to notify the district that the right to review student records should be denied the person whose rights have been terminated;
- D. Parents/guardians or adult students have the right to seek to include in the records material they think pertinent or to seek exclusion from the records of material that is

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untrue, irrelevant to the student's present educational situation or otherwise improperly contained in the student's record. Parents/adult students have the right to request an immediate stay of disclosure pending final determination of the challenge procedure. They also have the right to challenge the district's granting or denial of access to the student's records;

The Superintendent of Schools shall devise procedures to review such requests. These procedures shall include an appeal process as required by New Jersey administrative code.

Student Information Directories

The district shall compile, publicize and make available a "student information directory" as defined in the administrative code. Such directory information and school facilities shall be available to educational, occupational and military recruiters as required by law.

The district must notify parents/guardians and adult students annually in writing of their rights in regard to student participation in educational, occupational and military recruitment programs.

Such rights include:

- A. Notification of these rights in writing, in dominant language of parents/guardians or adult student.
- B. A 10-day period in which to submit a written statement to the Superintendent of Schools prohibiting the district from including any or all types of information about the student in any student information directory before allowing access to such directory and school facilities to educational, occupational and military recruiters pursuant to statute.
- C. A 10-day period to submit a written statement to the Superintendent of Schools excluding information from any school directory for official use.
- D. Copies of applicable state and federal laws and local policies will be made available on request.

District Review of Student Records

The Superintendent of Schools shall require all permitted student records of students currently enrolled in the regular educational program to be reviewed annually by certified school personnel to determine the educational relevance of the material contained therein. The reviewer shall cause to be deleted from the records data no longer descriptive of the student or educational situation.

Such information shall be destroyed and shall not be recorded elsewhere nor shall a record of such deletion be made.

Such data may not be removed from the record of a disabled student without prior parental notice.

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Records of Classified Students

All records of educationally handicapped students shall be maintained in accordance with administrative code and established procedures that will ensure proper accessibility and confidentiality.

A special confidential file shall be maintained listing the code numbers assigned to educationally handicapped students on whose behalf the Board of Education must take public action. Motions concerning educationally handicapped students shall be anonymous and refer to this confidential file. This shall be maintained in accordance with NJAC 6A:32-7.

Parents/adult students or designees shall be permitted to inspect and review the contents of the student's record maintained by the district without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding the student's IEP. Any consent required for educationally handicapped students under NJAC 6A:32-7 shall be obtained according to NJAC 6A:14-1.3 "Consent" and NJAC 6A:14-2.3.

Transfer of Student Records

- A. The Superintendent of Schools shall request records of a newly enrolled student from the district of previous attendance as soon as possible after enrollment, but in any case within the time limit prescribed by the administrative code.
- B. The Superintendent of Schools shall forward mandated student records as soon as possible upon receipt of the request from the Superintendent of Schools of the district to which the student has transferred, but in any case within the time limit prescribed by the administrative code. Permitted records shall be forwarded in the same manner at the same time if parental permission was given at the time the student's parents/guardians informed the district of the transfer.
- C. All records of district students moving into the school system shall be transferred in a secure and orderly fashion at the mutual convenience of the two Superintendents of Schools.

Permitted Access to Student Records

A nonadult student may assert rights of access only through his/her parent/guardian. However, certified school personnel may, in their discretion, disclose student records to nonadult students or to appropriate persons in connection with an emergency, if such knowledge is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons.

A parent/guardian or adult student shall either have access to or be specifically informed about only that portion of another student's record that contains information about his/her own child or himself/herself.

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A student record may be withheld from a parent of a student under 18 or from an adult student only when the district obtains a court order or is provided with evidence that there is a court order revoking the right to access. Only that portion of the record designated by the court may be withheld.

The Board shall limit access to, disclosure of and communication regarding student records and health records to authorized organizations, agencies or persons as defined by code.

Particular attention shall be paid to the development of procedures whereby student records are made accessible to assigned secretarial and clerical staff in the performance of their duties, and to compliance with requirements for the security of computerized student records that will limit access to authorized persons. Limited access shall be granted to secretarial and clerical personnel under the direct supervision of certified school personnel to those portions of the record and to the extent necessary to record data and conduct routine clerical tasks.

The district may make a charge for copies. The Board realizes and accepts the fact that any charges assessed shall not prevent parents/guardians from exercising their rights.

School personnel are not prohibited from disclosing information in the student health record to students or adults in connection with an emergency, if such knowledge is necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other persons.

In complying with this policy all individuals shall adhere to NJSA 47:1A-10, the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and 20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Conditions of Access

No student record shall be altered or destroyed during the time period between a request to review the record and the actual review of the record. Those from outside the school whose access requires consent of parents/adult students must submit the request in writing, together with any required authorization, to the Superintendent of Schools/designee. District regulation shall be developed in accordance with code to ensure that records are not altered, damaged or lost during inspection, and that records of access granted are complete.

Retention & Destruction of Records

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations in accordance with the administrative code concerning retention and destruction of student records. No additions may be made to the record after the graduation or permanent departure of a student without the prior written consent of the parent/adult student.

New Jersey district of last enrollment must keep in perpetuity: name, date of birth, gender, citizenship, address, phone number, health history and immunization,

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standardized assessment and test answer sheet (protocol), grades, attendance, classes attended, grade level completed, year completed, and years of attendance.

Liability

Liability shall not be attached to any member, officer or employee of the Board of Education permitting access or furnishing student records in accordance with these rules and regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to keep abreast of all changes in state and federal law and regulation concerning student records.

Legal References

- NJSA 2A:4A-60 et al. Disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure
18A:36-19 Pupil records; creation, maintenance and retention, security and access; regulations; nonliability
18A:36-19a Newly enrolled students; records and identification
18A:36-19.1 Military recruiters; access to schools and student information directories
18A:36-35 Disclosure of certain student information on Internet prohibited without parental consent
18A:40-4 Examination for physical defects and screening of hearing of students; health records
18A:40-19 Records and reports of tuberculosis testing; disposition; inspection
26:5C-7 through -14 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
47:1A-1 et seq. Examination and copies of public records ("Open Public Records Act")
47:3-15 et seq. Destruction of Public Records Law
52:17B-9.8a through -9.8c Marking of missing child's school record
- NJAC 6A:8-4.2 Documentation of student achievement
6A:14-1.1 et seq. Special Education
6A:16-1.1 et seq. Programs to Support Student Development
6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
6A:32-2.1 Definitions
6A:32-7.1 et seq. Student records
6A:32-8.1 School register
6A:32-14.1 Review of mandated programs and services
8:61-1.1 Attendance at school by students or adults infected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
15:3-2 State records manual
- 20 U.S.C.A. 1232g - Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act
42 U.S.C.A. 4541 et seq. - Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1980
42 CFR Part II
Owasso Independent School District No. I-001 v. Falvo, 534 U.S. (2002)
Warren Board of Education v. Cooperman, 105 NJ 587 (1987)
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.