

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice for Directory Information

1. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Essex County Public Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records.
2. However, Essex County Public Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information: without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures.
3. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Essex County Public Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:
 - A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
 - The annual yearbook;
 - Honor roll or other recognition lists;
 - Graduation programs; and
 - Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. If you do not want Essex 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 by September 15th of the school year.
7. Essex County Public Schools has designated the following information as directory information: **Student's name, gender, date and place of birth of students, student's email address, student's major field of study, participation in recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, states of attendance, degrees or awards received by students and photographs. However, no school shall disclose the address, phone number, or email address of a student pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(11) or the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) unless the parent or eligible student has affirmatively consented in writing to such disclosure.**
8. 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) and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-95, 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 provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.
9. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) law requires that parents at Tappahannock and Essex Intermediate (Title I schools) have the right to the professional information of highly qualified status of teachers.
10. If you would like this information, contact Ms. Sharon Saunders, at 804-443-4366 or in writing at P.O. 756, Tappahannock, VA, 22560.