



FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS/PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) NOTICE

Directory Information and School Related Publicity

Students participate in a variety of school-related events and activities that are subject to some form of publicity—from honor rolls to media coverage of special events. In publicizing student accomplishments or school events, due care is taken to ensure that it serves the best interest of students. A school or district office employee is present whenever a student is photographed or interviewed. Information about students may appear in newspaper articles, on television, in radio broadcasts, on displays, on the World Wide Web, or in District 7 and/or school promotional pieces (school annuals, brochures, fliers, newsletters, programs for sports or cultural events, television shows, videotape, websites, etc.).

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows schools to release “directory information,” i.e., student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photograph (District 7 considers photographs to include digital images, including digital photographs and recordings related to school- or district-sponsored events, activities, and special recognition, as directory information; video surveillance footage of school buses or school property, however, is not considered directory information), subjects of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance, diploma or certificate and awards received, the most recent previous school attended, and other similar information. In addition, federal laws require schools to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories—names, addresses, and telephone listings—unless parents have advised the school that they do not want their student’s information disclosed. If for some reason you object to your child’s inclusion/identification in publicized school recognitions/events/activities, including a school- or the district-maintained website/Facebook page, or wish to opt out of the provision for contact information to the military, you must, within 15 days of registration, advise the principal in writing (annually) of the specific type of directory information to withhold. If you do not do within 15 days, our school system is free to release or use such information as appropriate. You may change your mind and revoke this authorization at any time by notifying your child’s principal in writing.

To file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Spartanburg School District 7 to comply with the requirements of FERPA contact:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605