



Parental Privacy Form

Office of Shared Accountability
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MCPS Form 281-13
July 2015

See Reverse Side for Annual Notification of Your Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Schools provide *directory information* for public listings such as honor roll, awards, and other notices in the newspaper or on the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) website. A student's name, address, and telephone number may also be released to Parent Teacher Associations (PTA). **Unless you tell them not to**, schools can release the information without your prior consent.

Directory Information includes the following items: student's and/or parent's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number; student's date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; degrees and awards received (including honor roll); most recent school attended; dates of attendance; photograph, or other likeness; the weight and height of members of athletic teams; and other similar information.

If you do not want your school to release your *directory information*, complete the information below and return this notice to your school **by September 11, 2015**. Additional copies of this notice can be found at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/281-13.pdf.

This form must be completed every year.

Your school **will assume you agree** to the release of the directory information, unless this form is returned by Friday, **September 11, 2015**.

If you need to change your decision at a later date, just contact your school directly.

If you enroll after September 11, 2015, you can complete this form at the time of enrollment.

Montgomery County Public Schools

Request to Withhold Directory Information for the 2015-2016 School Year

Choose ONE of the following categories:

- Please **do not** release any directory information. (See definition above)
- Please **do not** release the following **part or parts** of directory information. (check all that apply)
- Name Telephone Photograph Other (specify) _____

EXCEPTIONS TO WITHHOLD REQUEST MARKED ABOVE:

- Release for the PTA Directory Release for Honor Roll publication Release photo for yearbook

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ ID# _____

School _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

If you do not restrict the release of certain information about your child, you are giving the school system and local schools the ability to perform daily operations and routine tasks without obtaining parental permission to release each piece of student information every time it is released.

Annual Notification of Your Rights under FERPA

As a parent/guardian of a MCPS student, you have certain rights regarding your child's education records under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), applicable federal regulations, and the *Code of Maryland Regulations* (COMAR) 13A.08.02. These rights are summarized below and described in more detail in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Regulation JOA-RA, *Student Records*, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/joara.pdf.

- 1. Review of Student Records.** You have the right to inspect and review your child's education records no later than 45 days after the school receives your written request. It is the goal of MCPS that schools should comply, whenever practicable, within 10 days after receiving a written request and prior to any hearing relating to the identification, evaluation, or placement of the student. The school will make arrangements for access and notify you of the time and place where your child's records may be inspected. The principal or his/her designee will be present during this review.
- 2. Amendment of Student Records.** If you believe your child's records are inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of your child's privacy rights, you have a right to make a written request for the school to amend the records. MCPS Regulation JOA-RA, *Student Records*, outlines procedures for addressing these requests including hearings, as appropriate. Grades are not subject to challenge under this provision.
- 3. Disclosure of Student Records.** You have the right to provide written consent before MCPS discloses personally identifiable information from your child's education records, unless federal law or state law specifically authorizes disclosure without consent. Guidelines for release of directory information, as well as the opportunity to opt-out from this release, are referenced on the other side of this form. In addition, please note that consent is not required for disclosures to school officials with legitimate educational interests, including administrators, teachers, or other staff employed by MCPS, as well as others acting on behalf of MCPS who need access to fulfill their job responsibilities, such as: school nurses and other health professionals who work with schools; school security personnel; a Montgomery County Board of Education member; a person, organization, or company under contract with MCPS to perform a service or function for which MCPS would otherwise use its own employees (such as attorneys or auditors); or a parent or other volunteer serving on a MCPS committee or helping other school officials perform their tasks.
 - Upon request, MCPS also discloses education records without consent to officials of other schools or school districts if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment in or transfer to that school or school district. In addition, MCPS may lawfully disclose personally identifiable information from student records, without your prior written consent, for other reasons authorized by FERPA, including to specified governmental agencies, for approved research projects, in compliance with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena, or in a health or safety emergency.
 - Additional information may be found in MCPS Regulation JOA-RA, *Student Records*, available on the MCPS website or at your local school.
- 4. Complaint to the U.S. Department of Education.** If you believe your rights under FERPA have been violated and efforts to resolve the situation through MCPS appeals channels have not proved satisfactory, you have the right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202 or call 202-260-3887.
- 5. Rights of Eligible Students.** The rights described above transfer to a student who is 18 years old or is attending a postsecondary education institution; parents/guardians of dependent eligible students, however, may access their child's records without prior consent of the eligible student.