

Fresno Unified Administrative Regulation (AR) 5125

Student Records

Definitions

Student record is any item of information other than directory information, gathered within or outside the district, that is directly related to an identifiable student and maintained by the district or required to be maintained by an employee in the performance of their duties. Any information maintained for the purpose of second-party review is considered a student record. A student record may be recorded in handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm, microfiche or by other means. Student records include the student's health record. (Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

The District shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of all school services, including, but, not limited to, the gathering of student and family information for the free and reduced lunch program, transportation and educational instruction.

If the district possesses information that could indicate immigration status, citizenship status, citizenship status, or national origin information, the district shall not use the acquired information to discriminate against any student or families or bar children from enrolling in or attending school.

Student records do not include: (Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

1. Informal notes compiled by a school officer or employee which remain in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute
2. Records of the law enforcement unit of the district, subject to the provisions of 34 CFR 99.8

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

Mandatory permanent student records are those records which are maintained in perpetuity and which schools have been directed to compile by state law, regulation or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

Mandatory interim student records are those records which the schools are directed to compile and maintain for stipulated periods of time and are then destroyed in accordance with state law, regulation or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

Permitted student records are those records having clear importance only to the current educational process of the student. (5 CCR 430)

Access means a personal inspection and review of a record, an accurate copy of a record or receipt of an accurate copy of a record, an oral description or communication of a record, and a request to release a copy of any record. (Education Code 49061)

Disclosure means to permit access to or the release, transfer, or other communication of personally identifiable information contained in education records, to any party, by any means including oral, written or electronic means. (34 CFR 99.3)

Personally identifiable information includes but is not limited to the student's name, the name of the student's parent/guardian or other family member, the address of the student or student's family, a personal identifier such as the student's number, and a list of personal characteristics or other information that would make the student's identity easily traceable. (34 CFR 99.3)

Adult student is a person who is or was enrolled in school and who is at least 18 years of age. (5 CCR 430)

School officials and employees are officials or employees whose duties and responsibilities to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require that they have access to student records.

A legitimate educational interest is one held by officials or employees whose duties and responsibilities to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require that they have access to student records.

Changes to Student Records

No additions except routine updating shall be made to a student's record after high school graduation or permanent departure without prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student. (5 CCR 437)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student may challenge the content of a record or offer a written response to a record. (Education Code 49061)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

Retention and Destruction of Student Records

The following mandatory permanent student records shall be kept indefinitely: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Legal name of student
2. Date and place of birth, and method of verifying birth date

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

3. Gender of student
4. Name and address of parent/guardian of minor student
 - a. Address of minor student if different from the above
 - b. Annual verification of parent/guardian's name and address and student's residence

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

(cf. 5111.11 - Residency of Students with Caregiver)

(cf. 5111.12 - Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment)

(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

5. Entrance and departure date of each school year and for any summer session or other extra session
6. Subjects taken during each year, half-year, summer session or quarter, and marks or credits given

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

7. Verification of or exemption from required immunizations

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

8. Date of high school graduation or equivalent

Unless forwarded to another district, mandatory interim student records shall be maintained subject to destruction during the third school year following a determination that their usefulness has ceased or the student has left the district. These records include: (Education Code 48918; 5 CCR 432, 437, 16027)

1. Expulsion orders and the causes therefor

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

2. A log identifying persons or agencies who request or receive information from the student record
3. Health information, including Child Health and Disability Prevention Program verification or waiver

(cf. 5141.32 - Child Health and Disability Prevention Program)

4. Information on participation in special education programs, including required tests, case studies, authorizations, and evidence of eligibility for admission or discharge

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification of Individuals for Special Education)

5. Language training records

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

6. Progress slips/notices required by Education Code 49066 and 49067
7. Parental restrictions/stipulations regarding access to directory information
8. Parent/guardian or adult student rejoinders to challenged records and to disciplinary action
9. Parent/guardian authorization or denial of student participation in specific programs
10. Results of standardized tests administered within the past three years

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Permitted student records may be destroyed six months after the student completes or withdraws from the educational program, including: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Objective counselor/teacher ratings
2. Standardized test results older than three years
3. Routine disciplinary data

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

4. Verified reports of relevant behavioral patterns
5. All disciplinary notices
6. Supplementary attendance records

Records shall be destroyed in a way that assures they will not be available to possible public inspection in the process of destruction. (5 CCR 437)

Persons with Access to Student Records

Persons, agencies or organizations specifically granted access rights pursuant to state law shall have access without written parental consent or judicial order. In addition, parental consent is not required when information is shared with other persons within educational institutions, agencies or organizations obtaining access, as long as those persons have a legitimate educational interest in the information. (Education Code 49076)

The District shall require written parental or guardian consent for release of student information, unless the information is relevant for a legitimate educational interest or includes directory information only. Neither exception permits disclosing information to immigration authorities for immigration-enforcement purposes; no student information shall be disclosed to immigration authorities for immigration- enforcement purposes without a court order or judicial subpoena.

The request for written or parental or guardian consent for release of student information must include the following information: (1) the signature and date of the parent, guardian, or eligible student providing consent; (2) a description of the records to be disclosed; (3) the reason for release of information; (4) the parties or class of parties receiving the information; and (5) if requested by the parents, guardians or eligible student, a copy of the records to be released.

The District shall permanently keep the consent notice with the record file.

The parent, guardian, or eligible student is not required to sign the consent form. If the parent, guardian or eligible student refuses to provide written consent for the release of student information that this not otherwise subject to release, the custodian of records shall not release the information.

The following persons or agencies shall have absolute access to any and all student records in accordance with state law:

1. Natural parents, adoptive parents, or legal guardians of students younger than age 18 (Education Code 49069)

Access to student records and information shall not be denied to a parent because they are not the child's custodial parent unless the district is provided with evidence that there is a court

order, state statute or other legally binding document that specifically revokes these rights. (Family Code 3025; 34 CFR 99.4)

2. Adult students age 18 or older or students under the age of 18 who attend a postsecondary institution, in which case the student shall alone exercise rights related to their student records and grant consent for the release of records (Education Code 49061; 34 CFR 99.5)

3. Those so authorized in compliance with a court order or lawfully issued subpoena (Education Code 49077)

In addition, the following persons or agencies shall have access to those particular records that are relevant to the legitimate educational interests of the requester: (Education Code 49076)

1. Natural parents, adoptive parents or legal guardians of a dependent student age 18 or older
2. Students 16 or older or who have completed the 10th grade
3. School officials and district employees
4. Members of a school attendance review board, and any volunteer aide age 18 or older who has been investigated, selected and trained by such a board to provide follow-up services to a referred student

(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)

5. Officials and employees of other public schools or school systems where the student intends or is directed to enroll, including local, county or state correctional facilities where educational programs leading to high school graduation are provided
6. Federal, state and local officials, as needed for program audits or compliance with law
7. Any district attorney who is participating in or conducting a truancy mediation program or participating in the presentation of evidence in a truancy petition
8. A prosecuting agency for consideration against a parent/guardian for failure to comply with compulsory education laws
9. Any probation officer or district attorney for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation or an investigation in regards to declaring a person a ward of the court or involving a violation of a condition of probation
10. Any judge or probation officer for the purpose of conducting a truancy mediation program for a student, or for purposes of presenting evidence in a truancy petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 681

County child welfare services workers responsible for the case plan of a minor who is being placed in foster care shall have access to the student's school records. (Welfare and Institutions Code 16010)

Foster family agencies with jurisdiction over currently enrolled or former students may access those students' records of grades and transcripts, and any Individualized Education Program (IEPs) developed and maintained by the district with respect to such students. (Education Code 49069.3)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

The Superintendent or designee may release a student's immunization record information to local health departments operating countywide immunization information and reminder systems and the State Department of Health Services. The following information may be released: the name of the student and the student's parent/guardian; types and dates of immunizations received by the student; manufacturer and lot number of the immunization received; adverse reaction to the immunization; other non-medical information necessary to establish the student's unique identity and record; current address and telephone number of the student and their parent/guardian; the student's gender; and the student's place of birth. (Health and Safety Code 120440)

When authorized by law to assist law enforcement in investigations of suspected kidnapping, the Superintendent or designee shall provide information about the identity and location of the student as it relates to the transfer of that student's records to another district or private school within the state. The information shall be released only to designated peace officers, federal criminal investigators and federal law enforcement officers whose names have been submitted in writing by their law enforcement agency. (Education Code 49076.5)

The Superintendent or designee may release information from student records to the following: (Education Code 49076)

1. Appropriate persons in an emergency if the health and safety of a student or other persons are at stake
2. Agencies or organizations in connection with a student's application for or receipt of financial aid
3. Accrediting associations
4. Under the conditions specified in Education Code 49076, organizations conducting studies on behalf of educational institutions or agencies for the purpose of developing, validating or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs or improving instruction
5. Officials and employees of private schools or school systems where the student is enrolled or intends to enroll
6. County elections officials for the purpose of identifying students eligible to register to vote and offering such students an opportunity to register

Persons, agencies or organizations not afforded access rights pursuant to state law may be granted access only through written permission of the parent/guardian or adult student, or by judicial order. (Education Code 49075)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student may consent to the release of records to others. Either parent may grant consent if both parents notify the district, in writing, that such an agreement has been made. (Education Code 49061)

(cf. 5021 - Noncustodial Parents)

Any person or agency granted access is prohibited from releasing information to another person or agency without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student. (Education Code 49076)

Procedures for Access

Student records shall be maintained in a central file at the school attended by the student or, when records are maintained in different locations, a notation shall be placed in the central file indicating where other records may be found. Parents/guardians shall be notified of the location of student records if not centrally located. (Education Code 49060; 5 CCR 433)

To inspect, review or obtain copies of student records, authorized persons shall submit a request to the custodian of records.

Authorized persons from outside the school whose access requires consent from the parent/guardian or adult student shall submit their request, together with any required authorization, to the Superintendent or designee or the custodian of records. (5 CCR435) Within five days following the date of request, an authorized person shall be granted access to inspect, review and obtain copies of student records during regular school hours. (Education Code 49069; 5 CCR 431)

Qualified certificated personnel shall be available to interpret records when requested. (Education Code 49069)

The custodian of records shall be responsible for the security of student records and shall assure that access is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

The custodian of records or the Superintendent or designee shall prevent the alteration, damage or loss of records during inspection. (5 CCR 435)

Prior to disclosing a record pursuant to a court order, the Superintendent or designee shall, unless otherwise instructed by the order, give the parent/guardian or adult student at least three days' notice of the name of the requesting agency and the specific record requested if lawfully possible within the requirements of the judicial order. (5 CCR 435)

When the district discloses personally identifiable information to officials of another school, school system or postsecondary institution where the student seeks or intends to enroll, the Superintendent or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian or adult student at their last known address, provide a copy of the record that was disclosed, and give him/her an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the record. (34 CFR 99.34)

Upon releasing student information to a judge or probation officer for the purpose of conducting a truancy mediation program or presenting evidence in a truancy petition, the Superintendent or designee shall inform, or provide written notification to, the student's parent/guardian within 24 hours. (Education Code 49076)

If the district is planning to release a student's immunization information to the county health department or state Department of Health Services, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the student's parents/guardians of the following: (Health and Safety Code 120440)

1. The type of information that will be shared
2. The name and address of the agency with which the district will share the information

3. That any shared information shall be treated as confidential and shall be used to share only with each other and, upon request, with health care providers, child care facilities, family child care homes, service providers for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food program, county welfare departments, and health care plans
4. That the information may be used only to provide immunization service; to provide or facilitate third-party payer payments for immunizations; to compile and disseminate statistical information on immunization status on groups of people, without identifying the student
5. That the parent/guardian has the right to examine any immunization-related information shared in this manner and to correct any errors
6. That the parent/guardian may refuse to allow this information to be shared

Duplication of Student Records

To provide copies of any student record, the district shall charge a reasonable fee not to exceed the actual cost of furnishing the copies. No charge shall be made for providing up to two transcripts or up to two verifications of various records for any former student. No charge shall be made to locate or retrieve any student record. (Education Code 49065)

The Superintendent or designee shall set a fee and update the amount periodically if actual costs change.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

Access Log

A log shall be maintained for each student's record which lists all persons, agencies or organizations requesting or receiving information from the records and the legitimate educational interest of the requester. (Education Code 49064)

In every instance of inspection by persons who do not have assigned educational responsibility, the school custodian of records shall make an entry in the log indicating the record inspected, the name of the person granted access, the reason access was granted, and the time and circumstances of inspection. (5 CCR 435)

The log does not need to include: (Education Code 49064)

1. Parents/guardians or adult students
2. Students 16 years of age or older who have completed the 10th grade
3. Parties obtaining district-approved directory information

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

4. Parties who provide written parental consent, in which case the consent notice shall be filed with the record pursuant to Education Code 49075
5. School officials or employees who have legitimate educational interest

The log shall be accessible only to the parent/guardian, adult student, dependent adult student, student age 16 years or older or who has completed the 10th grade, custodian of records, and certain state/federal officials. (Education Code 49064; 5 CCR 432)

Transfer of Student Records

If a student transfers into this district from any other school district or a private school, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian of their rights regarding student records, including the right to review, challenge and receive a copy of student records. (Education Code 49068; 5 CCR 438)

When a student transfers into this district from another, the Superintendent or designee shall request that the student's previous district provide any records, either maintained by that district in the ordinary course of business or received from a law enforcement agency, regarding acts committed by the transferring student that resulted in their suspension or expulsion. (Education Code 48201)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

When a student transfers from this district to another school district or to a private school, the Superintendent or designee shall forward a copy of the student's mandatory permanent records as requested by the other district or private school. The original record or a copy shall be retained permanently by this district. If the transfer is to another California public school, the student's entire mandatory interim record shall be forwarded. If the transfer is out of state or to a private school, the mandatory interim record may be forwarded. Permitted student records may be forwarded to any other district or private school. (5 CCR 438)

(cf. 5118 - Transfers)

When informed that a district student in foster care is transferring to another local educational agency, the Superintendent or designee shall cooperate to ensure that the student's health and education records are transferred to the receiving district. The district shall transfer the records within five working days of receiving notification regarding the student's new educational placement. (Education Code 49069.5)

All student records shall be updated before they are transferred. (5 CCR 438)

Student records shall not be withheld from the requesting district because of any charges or fees owed by the student or parent/guardian. (5 CCR 438)

If the district is withholding grades, diploma or transcripts from the student because of their damage or loss of school property, this information shall be sent to the requesting district along with the student's records.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

Notification of Parents/Guardians

Upon students' initial enrollment and at the beginning of each year thereafter, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians and eligible students, in writing, of their rights related to student records. Insofar as practicable, the district shall provide these notices in the student's home language and shall effectively notify parents/guardians or eligible students who are disabled. (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7)

If parents or guardians choose not to provide information that could indicate their or their children's immigration status, citizenship status, or national origin information, the district shall not use such actions as a basis to discriminate against any students or families or bar children from enrolling or attending school.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The notice shall include information about: (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7, 99.34)

1. The types of student records kept by the district and the information contained therein
2. The titles of the officials responsible for maintaining each type of record
3. The location of the log identifying those who request information from the records
4. District criteria for defining "school officials and employees" and for determining "legitimate educational interest"
5. District policies for reviewing and expunging student records
6. The right to inspect and review student records, and the procedures for doing so
7. The right to challenge and the procedures for challenging the content of a student record that the parent/guardian or student believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

8. The cost, if any, charged for duplicating copies of records
9. The categories of information defined as directory information pursuant to Education Code 49073
10. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records except when disclosure without consent is authorized by law
11. The availability of the curriculum prospectus developed pursuant to Education Code 49091.14 containing the titles, descriptions and instructional aims of every course offered by the school

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

12. Any other rights and requirements set forth in Education Code 49060-49078, and the right of parents/guardians to file a complaint with the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare concerning an alleged failure by the district to comply with 20 USC 1232g
13. The notification shall also include a statement that the district forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

Fresno Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, medical information, military veteran status, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.

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