

Release of Directory Information

FERPA permits the District to disclose information designated as Directory Information without the consent of the parent or eligible student. Directory Information is information, the disclosure of which is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Among the purposes that the Directory Information exception facilitates is the release of student information in athletic and extra-curricular programs, yearbooks, honor roll and other recognition lists, graduation programs, etc.

Gwinnett County Public Schools has designated the following information as “Directory Information”: name, address, telephone number, date of birth, electronic mail (e-mail) address, photograph, audio recordings, video recordings, grade level, years of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, and honors and awards received. Unless the parent or eligible student opt-out of the disclosure of “Directory Information,” the information designated as Directory Information above may be disclosed in District publications or to appropriate legitimate agencies, entities, or individuals identified by the District, including, but not limited to, PTA, colleges, and military recruiters. The District will not regard agencies, entities, or individuals submitting Open Records Requests as appropriate legitimate agencies, entities, or individuals for the purpose of disclosure of Directory Information.

You have the right to refuse to allow “Directory Information” to be disclosed. In order to opt out of the disclosure of Directory Information, you must notify the principal of the school the student attends in writing within 10 days of receipt of this handbook. The written notice must: (1) include the name of the student; (2) include a statement that the parent/guardian or eligible student is opting out of the disclosure of Directory Information under FERPA; and (3) be signed and dated by the parent, guardian, or eligible student.*

**Please note that your written notice will be effective for the current year only and must be renewed on an annual basis should you wish to continue to opt out of the release of Directory Information.*

Media Release

Gwinnett County Public Schools uses and releases photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings taken or recorded at its facilities and events for educational, instructional, or promotional purposes as determined by Gwinnett County Public Schools for use in broadcast and media formats now existing or created in the future. These photographs and recordings often include depictions of students and/or parents engaged in instruction, school functions, and school activities. Any such photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings shall become the property of Gwinnett County Public Schools and may be used or disclosed by Gwinnett County Public Schools or others with the consent of Gwinnett County Public Schools and/or its representatives to students, parents, community members, or media outlets. By signing the Response Form acknowledging receipt of this Student/Parent Handbook, you consent to the foregoing. As the parent of a student or as an eligible student (18 years of age or older), you may elect to withhold your

consent for Gwinnett County Public Schools’ use of photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings of you and/or your child. In order to withhold your consent for the disclosure of your and/or your child’s photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings, you (parent/guardian of the student) or the eligible student must notify the principal of the school the student attends in writing within 10 days of receipt of this handbook. The written notice must: (1) include the name of the student; (2) include a statement that the parent/guardian or eligible student is opting out of the release of photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings depicting the student; and (3) be signed and dated by the parent, guardian or eligible student. Please note that your written notice will be effective for the current school year only and must be renewed on an annual basis should you wish to continue to opt out of the release of photographs and recordings. Finally, please note that Gwinnett County Public Schools will not be responsible for, and cannot control, photographs, audio recordings, or video recordings captured by individuals who are not employed by, affiliated with, or under contract with Gwinnett County Public Schools. Please contact your local school administration or technology team if you have further questions regarding this topic.

Privacy: Parents and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment affords parents and eligible students rights and protections regarding instructional materials used in educational programs, surveys administered to students, and the conduct of certain physical examinations. The rights and protections established by the PPRA include:

- **Instructional Materials.** The parent or eligible student has the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student; and
- **Surveys.** The parent or eligible student has the right to inspect any survey created by a third party, prior to the administration or distribution of the survey and the right to opt the student out of participation in any such survey. In addition, before a student may be required to submit to a survey revealing “Protected Information,” the written consent of the parent or the consent of the eligible student is required. Finally, a minor student may not volunteer to submit to a survey revealing “Protected Information” without providing the parent of the student with prior written notice of the administration of the survey and an opportunity to opt out of the survey. “Protected Information” is information in the following categories:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
3. Sex behavior and attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program); or