

1 **Gardiner School District**

2
3 **STUDENTS**

3600

4
5 Student Records

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7 School student records are confidential, and information from them will not be released other
8 than as provided by law. State and federal laws grant students and parents certain rights,
9 including the right to inspect, copy, and challenge school records.

10
11 The District will ensure information contained in student records is current, accurate, clear, and
12 relevant. All information maintained concerning a student receiving special education services
13 will be directly related to the provision of services to that child. The District may release
14 directory information as permitted by law, but parents will have the right to object to release of
15 information regarding their child. Military recruiters and institutions of higher education may
16 request and receive the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all high school students,
17 unless the parent(s) notifies the school not to release this information.

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19 The Superintendent will implement this policy and state and federal law with administrative
20 procedures. The Superintendent or designee will inform staff members of this policy and inform
21 students and their parents of it, as well as of their rights regarding student school records.

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25 Legal Reference: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. 99
26 § 20-5-201, MCA Duties and sanctions
27 § 40-4-225, MCA Access to records by parent
28 10.55.909, ARM Student Records
29 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-334
30

31 Policy History:

32 Adopted on:

33 Revised on:

Adopted Policy

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Student Records

Maintenance of School Student Records

The District maintains two (2) sets of school records for each student – a permanent record and a cumulative record.

The permanent record will include:

- Basic identifying information
- Academic work completed (transcripts)
- Level of achievement (grades, standardized achievement tests)
- Immunization records (per § 20-5-406, MCA)
- Attendance record
- Record of any disciplinary action taken against the student, which is educationally related

The cumulative record may include:

- Intelligence and aptitude scores
- Psychological reports
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Honors and awards
- Teacher anecdotal records
- Verified reports or information from non-educational persons
- Verified information of clear relevance to the student's education
- Information pertaining to release of this record
- Disciplinary information

Information in the permanent record will indicate authorship and date and will be maintained in perpetuity for every student who has been enrolled in the District. Cumulative records will be maintained for eight (8) years after the student graduates or permanently leaves the District. Cumulative records which may be of continued assistance to a student with disabilities, who graduates or permanently withdraws from the District, may, after five (5) years, be transferred to the parents or to the student if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parents.

The building principal will be responsible for maintenance, retention, or destruction of a student's permanent or cumulative records, in accordance with District procedure established by the Superintendent.

Access to Student Records

The District will grant access to student records as follows:

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1. The District or any District employee will not release, disclose, or grant access to information found in any student record except under the conditions set forth in this document.
2. The parents of a student under eighteen (18) years of age will be entitled to inspect and copy information in the child's school records. Such requests will be made in writing and directed to the records custodian. Access to the records will be granted within fifteen (15) days of the District's receipt of such request.

Where the parents are divorced or separated, both will be permitted to inspect and copy the student's school records, unless a court order indicates otherwise. The District will send copies of the following to both parents at either one's request, unless a court order indicates otherwise:

- a. Academic progress reports or records;
- b. Health reports;
- c. Notices of parent-teacher conferences;
- d. School calendars distributed to parents/guardians; and
- e. Notices about open houses and other major school events, including student-parent interaction.

When the student reaches eighteen (18) years of age, graduates from high school, marries, or enters military service, all rights and privileges accorded to the parent become exclusively those of the student.

Access will not be granted to the parent or the student to confidential letters and recommendations concerning admission to a post-secondary educational institution, applications for employment, or receipt of an honor or award, if the student has waived his or her right of access after being advised of his or her right to obtain the names of all persons making such confidential letters or statements.

3. The District may grant access to or release information from student records without prior written consent to school officials with a legitimate educational interest in the information. A school official is a person employed by the District in an administrative, supervisory, academic, or support staff position (including, but not limited to administrators, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, coaches, and bus drivers), and the board of trustees. A school official may also include a volunteer or contractor not employed by the District but who performs an educational service or function for which the District would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the District with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifying information from education records, or such other third parties under contract with the District to provide professional services related to the District's educational mission, including, but not limited to, attorneys and auditors. A school official has a legitimate educational

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interest in student education information when the official needs the information in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the District. Access by school officials to student education information will be restricted to that portion of a student's records necessary for the school official to perform or accomplish their official or professional duties.

4. The District may grant access to or release information from student records without parental consent or notification to any person, for the purpose of research, statistical reporting, or planning, provided that no student or parent can be identified from the information released, and the person to whom the information is released signs an affidavit agreeing to comply with all applicable statutes and rules pertaining to school student records.
5. The District will grant access to or release information from a student's records pursuant to a court order, provided that the parent will be given prompt written notice, upon receipt of such order, of its terms, the nature and substance of the information proposed to be released, and an opportunity to inspect and copy such records and to challenge their contents.
6. The District will grant access to or release information from any student record, as specifically required by federal or state statute.
7. The District will grant access to or release information from student records to any person possessing a written, dated consent, signed by the parent or eligible student, with particularity as to whom the records may be released, the information or record to be released, and reason for the release. One (1) copy of the consent form will be kept in the records, and one (1) copy will be mailed to the parent or eligible student by the Superintendent. Whenever the District requests consent to release certain records, the records custodian will inform the parent or eligible student of the right to limit such consent to specific portions of information in the records.
8. The District may release student records to the superintendent or an official with similar responsibilities in a school in which the student has enrolled or intends to enroll, upon written request from such official. School officials may also include those listed in #3 above.
9. Prior to release of any records or information under items 5, 6, 7, and 8, above, the District will provide prompt written notice to the parents or eligible student of this intended action. This notification will include a statement concerning the nature and substance of the records to be released and the right to inspect, copy, and challenge the contents.

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10. The District may release student records or information in connection with an emergency, without parental consent, if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons. The records custodian will make this decision, taking into consideration the nature of the emergency, the seriousness of the threat to the health and safety of the student or other persons, the need for such records to meet the emergency, and whether the persons to whom such records are released are in a position to deal with the emergency. The District will notify the parents or eligible student, as soon as possible, of the information released, date of the release, the person, agency, or organization to whom the release was made, and the purpose of the release.
11. The District may disclose, without parental consent, student records or information to the youth court and law enforcement authorities, pertaining to violations of the Montana Youth Court Act or criminal laws by the student.
12. The District will comply with an *ex parte* order requiring it to permit the U.S. Attorney General or designee to have access to a student's school records without notice to or consent of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
13. The District charges a nominal fee for copying information in the student's records. No parent or student will be precluded from copying information because of financial hardship.
14. A record of all releases of information from student records (including all instances of access granted, whether or not records were copied) will be kept and maintained as part of such records. This record will be maintained for the life of the student record and will be accessible only to the parent or eligible student, records custodian, or other person. The record of release will include:
 - a. Information released or made accessible.
 - b. Name and signature of the records custodian.
 - c. Name and position of the person obtaining the release or access.
 - d. Date of release or grant of access.
 - e. Copy of any consent to such release.

Directory Information

The District may release certain directory information regarding students, except that parents may prohibit such a release. Directory information will be limited to:

Student's name
Address
Telephone listing

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Electronic mail address
Photograph (including electronic version)
Date and place of birth
Major field of study
Dates of attendance
Grade level
Enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate; full-time or part-time)
Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
Weight and height of members of athletic teams
Degrees
Honors and awards received
Most recent educational agency or institution attended

The notification to parents and students concerning school records will inform them of their right to object to the release of directory information.

Military Recruiters/Institutions of Higher Education

Pursuant to federal law, the District is required to release the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all high school students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request. The notification to parents and students concerning school records will inform them of their right to object to the release of this information.

Student Record Challenges

The parents may challenge the accuracy, relevancy, or propriety of the records, except: (1) grades, and (2) references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions, if the challenge is made when the student's school records are being forwarded to another school. They have the right to request a hearing at which each party has:

- The right to present evidence and to call witnesses;
- The right to cross-examine witnesses;
- The right to counsel;
- The right to a written statement of any decision and the reasons therefor;
- The right to appeal an adverse decision to an administrative tribunal or official, to be established or designated by the State Board.

The parents may insert a written statement of reasonable length describing their position on disputed information. The school will include the statement in any release of the information in dispute.

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Legal Reference: Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g **(2011)**; 34
C.F.R. 99 **(2011)**
§ 20-5-201, MCA Duties and sanctions
§ 40-4-225, MCA Access to records by parent
§ 41-5-215, MCA Youth court and department records – notification
of school
10.55.909, ARM Student records

Procedure History:

Promulgated on:

Reviewed on: September 12, 2012

Revised on: October 10, 2012

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3 **STUDENTS**

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5 Student Records

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7 Notification to Parents and Students of Rights Concerning a Student's School Records

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9 *This notification may be distributed by any means likely to reach the parent(s)/guardian(s).*

10
11 The District will maintain two (2) sets of school records for each student: a permanent record
12 and a cumulative record. The permanent record will include:

- 13
14 Basic identifying information
15 Academic work completed (transcripts)
16 Level of achievement (grades, standardized achievement tests)
17 Immunization records (per § 20-5-506, MCA)
18 Attendance record
19 Record of any disciplinary action taken against the student, which is educationally related
20

21 The cumulative record may include:

- 22
23 Intelligence and aptitude scores
24 Psychological reports
25 Participation in extracurricular activities
26 Honors and awards
27 Teacher anecdotal records
28 Verified reports or information from non-educational persons
29 Verified information of clear relevance to the student's education
30 Information pertaining to release of this record
31 Disciplinary information
32

33 The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students
34 over eighteen (18) years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's
35 education records. They are:

- 36
37 1. **The right to inspect and copy the student's education records, within a reasonable**
38 **time from the day the District receives a request for access.**

39
40 "Eligible" students, who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, have the right to inspect
41 and copy their permanent record. Parents/guardians or "eligible" students should submit
42 to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request identifying the
43 record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make, within forty-five (45) days,
44 arrangements for access and notify the parent(s)/ guardian(s) or eligible student of the
45 time and place the records may be inspected. The District charges a nominal fee for
46 copying, but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay

this cost.

The rights contained in this section are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning a student.

2. **The right to request amendment of the student's education records which the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, irrelevant, or improper.**

Parents/guardians or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record they believe is inaccurate, misleading, irrelevant, or improper. They should write the school principal or records custodian, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify the reason.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student, the District will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. **The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA or state law authorizes disclosure without consent.**

Disclosure is permitted without consent to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as contractors, attorneys, auditors, consultants, or therapists); volunteers; other outside parties to whom an educational agency or institution has outsourced institutional services or functions that it would otherwise use employees to perform; or a parent(s)/guardian(s) or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest, if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records, without consent, to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by state or federal law. Before information is released to individuals described in this paragraph, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive written notice of the nature and substance of the information and an opportunity to

inspect, copy, and challenge such records. The right to challenge school student records does not apply to: (1) academic grades of their child, and (2) references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions, if the challenge is made at the time the student's school student records are forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring.

Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting, or planning, provided that no student or parent(s)/guardian(s) can be identified; any person named in a court order; and appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons.

4. **The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.**
5. **The right to prohibit the release of directory information concerning the parent's/guardian's child.**

Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph (including electronic version)
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate; full-time or part-time)
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees
- Honors and awards received
- Most recent educational agency or institution attended

Any parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student may prohibit the release of all of the above information by delivering written objection to the building principal within ten (10) days of the date of this notice. No directory information will be released within this time period, unless the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible students are specifically informed otherwise. When a student transfers, leaves the District, or graduates, the school must continue to honor a decision to opt-out, unless the parent or student rescinds the decision.

Any parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student, may not opt out of directory information to prevent the district from disclosing or requiring a student to disclose their name [identifier, institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled] or from requiring a student to disclose a student ID card or badge that exhibits information that has been properly designated directory information by the district in this policy.

6. The right to request that information not be released to military recruiters and/or institutions of higher education.

Pursuant to federal law, the District is required to release the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all high school students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible students may request that the District not release this information, and the District will comply with the request.

7. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

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

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on: 11/14/2012

Revised on: 12/12/2012

Student Directory Information Notification

*Please sign and return this form to the school within ten (10) days of the receipt of this form **ONLY** if you do not want directory information about your child disclosed to third parties in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). If we receive no response by that date, we will disclose all student directory information at our discretion and/or in compliance with law.*

Date

Dear Parent/Eligible Student:

This document informs you of your right to direct the District to withhold the release of student directory information for _____.

Student's Name

Following is a list of items this District considers student **directory information**.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Student's name-Address-Telephone listing-Electronic mail address-Photograph (including electronic version)-Date and place of birth-Major field of study-Dates of attendance-Grade level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate; full-time or part-time)-Participation in officially recognized activities and sports-Weight and height of members of athletic teams-Degrees-Honors and awards received-Most recent educational agency or institution attended
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If you do NOT want directory information provided to the following, please check the appropriate box.

☐ Institutions of Higher Education, ☐ Potential Employers, ☐ Armed Forces Recruiters, ☐ Other

NOTE: If a student's name, grade level, or photograph is to be withheld, the student will not be included in the school's yearbook, program events, or other such publications.

Parent/Eligible Student's Signature

Date