



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice for Directory Information

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*, a Federal law, requires that **Thomasville City Schools**, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Thomasville City Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised Thomasville City Schools to the contrary in accordance with Thomasville City Schools procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Thomasville City Schools to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for football, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. **[Note: These laws are Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. § 7908) and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c).]**

If you do not want Thomasville City Schools to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Thomasville City Schools in writing by September 8th or within 30 days of enrollment if your child is enrolled after September 8th. Thomasville City Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Date and place of birth
- Major student interests and training
- Dates of attendance
- Highest Grade level achieved
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- The most recent and previous educational agency or institution attended

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)–

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

****Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:***

Thomasville City Schools
Attn: Nathan Espy,
Director of Federal Programs
404 N. Broad St., FL-3
Thomasville, GA 31792
229-225-2600, ext. 1008
espyn@tcitys.org

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920