

GBEAA and JRB – CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT INFORMATION

Category Recommended – While these policies are not required by law, they are highly recommended for effective school board operations.

Intent:

It is policy of the Winchester School District to respect the privacy and/or confidentiality of all students and staff within the District. It is the District policy that personally identifiable information should only be viewed or received by District employees who have a legitimate educational or business interest or purpose in viewing or receiving private and/or confidential information.

Confidential Information:

As part of the job performance of the District, employees may produce and receive information that must be kept confidential. Confidential information includes information obtained during the course of employment relating to the conduct of School District internal affairs. It shall also include information relating to students that is otherwise protected by applicable state and federal privacy laws. School District employees shall not disclose nor transmit such confidential information concerning students or others, or confidential internal information and shall use extreme care to protect against negligent or inadvertent disclosure of such information.

Upon termination of employment or involvement in such internal affairs, or at any time that the District requests, all memoranda, notes, records, reports, lists and other documents containing, describing or relating to confidential information, together with all copies of the same, obtained by School District employees or entrusted to them during the course of their employment, shall be surrendered to the District at the time of such termination or request, or legal action will be pursued.

Observations:

During the course of carrying out activities as an employee or volunteer of the District, an individual may make certain observations that may disclose personally identifiable information about a student. These observations may indicate the nature of disabilities and/or accommodations that are made in response to such disabilities. These observations, by their very nature, may result in the employee or volunteer receiving information in which they neither have a legitimate educational interest nor a “need to know”. To the degree that such observations disclose personally identifiable information, the employee or volunteer in question making such observations must respect the privacy and confidentiality of the student involved and not disclose such information in violation of this policy.

Violations:

The dissemination of personally identifiable information by employees or volunteers to individuals who have neither a legitimate educational interest nor a “need to know” is prohibited. Employees and volunteers are not to disclose such information to individuals not affiliated with the School District without specific written authorization from District administrators and the affected student/parent.

Volunteers who violate this policy may have their services terminated. District employees who violate this policy may face discipline up to and including termination, in accordance with applicable law, board policies and/or collective bargaining agreements.

Legal References:

20 USC 1232g. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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