

Annual Notifications for Parents

As required by law, Greenwood School District 52 is sharing the following notifications with parents/guardians for the 2024-25 school year. Please take the time to review them with your child as needed. Should you have any questions, please contact the person or department identified in in the respective section. Thank you for your support and for entrusting your child to our school community! Us

Cathy Anderson, Director of Human Resources and Special Projects

Phone: 864-970-7516

Section 504 Information

Students and parents have specific rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which is designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of handicap in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. A handicap is any physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

Parents have the right to: (1) have the child take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination based on a disability; (2) have the school district advise them of rights under federal law; (3) receive notice with respect to evaluation, identification or placement of the child; (4) have the child receive a free public education to the maximum extent appropriate and have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow the child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities; (5) have the child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided students without disabilities; (6) have evaluation, identification and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by individuals who know the student, the evaluation data and placement options; (7) give the child an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the school district; (8) examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding the child's evaluation; (9) obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost; (10) receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations of the child's records; (11) request amendment of the child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe they are inaccurate; and (12) request mediation or a grievance hearing related to decisions regarding the child's evaluation, identification, placement or educational plan as described below in which the parent and the child may take part and have an attorney.

Questions about particular Section 504 issues may be directed to the following individuals: for issues related to a student's program, contact Kelly Fisher, Director of Special Services at 864-970-7511; for issues related to facilities, contact Dr. Rex Ward, Superintendent at 864-970-7510.

Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should provide written notification to the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specifying why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information in the student's education records. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member; a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials; or a parent or student serving on an official 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 school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment affords parents or students who are 18 years old certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams.

The rights include:

The right to consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education: political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent; mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family; sexual behavior or attitudes; illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors or ministers; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents; or income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

The right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of any non-emergency 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.

The right to inspect, upon request and before administration, instruments used to collect personal information from students and instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.

Notice of Directory Information

Greenwood District 52 defines student directory information as:

- address
- telephone number
- date and place of birth
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- weight and height of members of athletic teams
- dates of attendance
- diploma or certificate and awards received
- electronic mail address
- photographs, digital images, images on videotape and other electronic images (as related to school-sponsored or districts sponsored events, activities and special recognitions)
- grade level

- most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student
- other similar information which may appear in newspaper articles, on television, in radio broadcasts, on displays, on the
- world wide web or in district or school promotional pieces

The school system may release this information without parental permission unless the parent notifies the school system that it should not be released. Directory information is most often used in news releases to the media about student activities and achievements. Parents who would like to restrict or prohibit the release of information about their minor student should notify the principal in writing. Students 18 years or older should submit their own notification.

Rights for Homeless Students

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act entitles children who are homeless to a free and appropriate public education and requires schools to remove barriers to their enrollment, attendance and success in school. Schools must immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness, even if they do not have proof of residency, school and immunization records, birth certificates or other documents and even if they are not accompanied by an adult. A student in a homeless situation has the right to stay in his/her school of origin even if that school is out of district. Students experiencing homelessness are eligible, based on individual need, for services provided to other students, and they are automatically eligible for Title I services. For more information, contact Dr. Beth Taylor, Superintendent at 864-970-7510.

Notice of Directory Information

Greenwood School District 52 defines student directory information as: student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

The school system may release this information without parental permission unless the parent notifies the school system that it should not be released. Directory information is most often used in news releases to the media about student activities and achievements. Parents who would like to restrict or prohibit the release of information about their minor student should notify the principal in writing. Students 18 years or older should submit their own notification.

Military Recruiters

Federal legislation requires high schools to provide military recruiters directory information about juniors and seniors upon request. The directory information includes the student's name, address and telephone number. Parents have the right to opt out and forbid disclosure of directory information (or any category of directory information) to any third party without written consent. To prevent release of

directory information to military recruiters without consent, parents should submit written notice to their high school principal. Students 18 years old or older should submit their own notification.

Greenwood School District 52 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital or parental status.