

Students

STUDENT RECORDS

Definitions

Student means any individual who is or has been in attendance at the district and regarding whom the district maintains student records. (34 CFR 99.3)

Attendance includes, but is not limited to, attendance in person or by paper correspondence, videoconference, satellite, Internet, or other electronic information and telecommunication technologies for students who are not physically present in the classroom, and the period during which a person is working under a work-study program. (34 CFR 99.3)

Student records are any items of information (in handwriting, print, tape, film, computer, or other medium) gathered within or outside the district that are directly related to an identifiable student and maintained by the district, required to be maintained by an employee in the performance of his/her duties, or maintained by a party acting for the district. Any information maintained for the purpose of second-party review is considered a student record. Student records include the student's health record. (Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

Student records do not include: (Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

1. Directory information.

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

2. Informal notes compiled by a school officer or employee which remain in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute employee.

3. Records of the law enforcement unit of the district, subject to the provisions of 34 CFR 99.8

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

4. Records created or received by the district after an individual is no longer a student in attendance and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student.

5. Grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by a teacher.

Mandatory permanent student records are those records which are maintained in perpetuity and which schools have been directed to compile by state law, regulation, or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

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Mandatory interim student records are those records which the schools are directed to compile and maintain for stipulated periods of time and are then destroyed in accordance with state law, regulation, or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

Permitted student records are those records having clear importance only to the current educational process of the student. (5 CCR 430)

Disclosure means to permit access to, or the release, transfer, or other communication of, personally identifiable information contained in student records to any party, except the party that provided or created the record, by any means including oral, written, or electronic. (34 CFR 99.3)

Access means a personal inspection and review of a record, an accurate copy of a record or receipt of an accurate copy of a record, an oral description or communication of a record, and a request to release a copy of any record. (Education Code 49061)

Personally identifiable information includes, but is not limited to: (34 CFR 99.3)

1. The student's name.
2. The name of the student's parent/guardian or other family members.
3. The address of the student or student's family.
4. A personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record (e.g., fingerprints, retina and iris patterns, voiceprints, DNA sequence, facial characteristics, and handwriting).
5. Other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name.
6. Other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty.
7. Information requested by a person who the district reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the student record relates.

Adult student is a person who is or was enrolled in school and who is at least 18 years of age. (5 CCR 430)

Parent/guardian means a natural parent, an adopted parent, legal guardian, surrogate parent, or foster parent. (Education Code 49061, 56050, 56055)

School officials and employees are officials or employees whose duties and responsibilities to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require that they have access to student records.

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Legitimate educational interest is an interest held by school officials and employees whose duties and responsibilities to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require them to have access to student records.

Custodian of records is the employee responsible for the security of student records maintained by the district and for devising procedures for assuring that access to such records is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

County placing agency means the county social service department or county probation department. (Education Code 49061)

Persons Granted Access

The following persons or agencies shall have absolute access to any and all student records in accordance with law:

1. Parents/guardians of students younger than age 18 years, including the parent who is not the student's custodial parent. (Education Code 49069; Family Code 3025)
2. An adult student age 18 years or older, or a student under the age of 18 years who attends a postsecondary institution, in which case the student alone shall exercise rights related to his/her student records and grant consent for the release of records. (34 CFR 99.3, 99.5)

In addition, the following persons or agencies shall have access to those particular records that are relevant to their legitimate educational interest or other legally authorized purpose:

1. Parents/guardians of a dependent child age 18 or older. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
2. Students who are age 16 or older or who have completed the 10th grade. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
3. School officials and employees, consistent with definition provided in the section "Definitions" above. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
4. Members of a school attendance review board (SARB) and any volunteer aide age 18 or older who has been investigated, selected, and trained by the SARB to provide follow-up services to a referred student. (Education Code 49076)

(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy and Chronic Absence)

5. Officials and employees of other public schools, school systems, or postsecondary institutions where the student intends or is directed to enroll, including local, county, or state correctional facilities where educational programs leading to high school graduation are provided, or where the student is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)

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When the district discloses personally identifiable information to officials of another school, school system, or postsecondary institution where the student seeks or intends to enroll, the Superintendent or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian or adult student at his/her last known address, provide a copy of the record that is disclosed, and give the parent/guardian or adult student an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the record. (34 CFR 99.34)

6. Federal, state, and local officials, as needed for an audit, evaluation, or compliance activity related to a state or federally funded education program and in accordance with a written agreement developed pursuant to 34 CFR 99.35 (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.3, 99.31, 99.35)
7. Any person, agency, or organization authorized in compliance with a court order or lawfully issued subpoena. (Education Code 49077; 5 CCR 435; 34 CFR 99.31)

Unless otherwise instructed by the court, the Superintendent or designee shall, prior to disclosing a record pursuant to a court order or subpoena, give the parent/guardian or adult student at least three days' notice of the name of the requesting agency and the specific record requested, if lawfully possible within the requirements of the judicial order. (Education Code 49077; 5 CCR 435; 34 CFR 99.31)

8. Any district attorney who is participating in or conducting a truancy mediation program or participating in the presentation of evidence in a truancy petition (Education Code 49076)
9. A prosecuting agency for consideration against a parent/guardian for failure to comply with compulsory education laws. (Education Code 49076)
10. Any probation officer, district attorney, or counsel of record for a minor student for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation or an investigation in regards to declaring the minor student a ward of the court or involving a violation of a condition of probation, subject to specified evidentiary rules. (Education Code 49076)

When disclosing records for these purposes, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain written certification from the recipient of the record(s) that the information will not be disclosed to another party without prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or the holder of the student's educational rights, unless specifically authorized by state or federal law. (Education Code 49076)

11. Any judge or probation officer for the purpose of conducting a truancy mediation program for a student or for the purpose of presenting evidence in a truancy petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 681. (Education Code 49076)

In such cases, the judge or probation officer shall certify in writing to the Superintendent or designee that the information will be used only for truancy purposes. Upon releasing student information to a judge or probation officer, the Superintendent or designee shall inform, or provide written notification to, the student's parent/guardian within 24 hours. (Education Code 49076)

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12. Any county placing agency for the purpose of preparing a health and education summary pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 16010 for a child placed in foster care, fulfilling educational case management responsibilities required by the juvenile court or by law, or assisting with the school transfer or enrollment of a student. (Education Code 49076)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

13. Any foster family agency with jurisdiction over currently enrolled or former students for purposes of accessing those students' records of grades and transcripts and any individualized education program developed and maintained by the district. (Education Code 49069.3)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

14. Appropriate law enforcement authorities, in circumstances where Education Code 48902 requires that the district provide special education and disciplinary records of a student with disabilities who is suspended or expelled for committing an act violating Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902, 49076)

When disclosing such records, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain written certification by the recipient of the record(s) as described in item #10 above. (Education Code 49076)

15. Designated peace officers, federal criminal investigators, and federal law enforcement officers whose names have been submitted in writing by their law enforcement agency in accordance with Education Code 49076.5, in cases where the district is authorized to assist law enforcement in investigations of suspected kidnapping. (Education Code 49076.5)

In such cases, the Superintendent or designee shall provide information about the identity and location of the student as it relates to the transfer of that student's records to another public school district or California private school. (Education Code 49076.5)

At his/her discretion, the Superintendent or designee may release information from a student's records to the following:

1. Appropriate persons, including parents/guardians of a student, in an emergency if the health and safety of the student or other persons are at stake. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.36)
2. Accrediting associations. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
3. Under the conditions specified in Education Code 49076 and 34 CFR 99.31, organizations conducting studies on behalf of educational institutions or agencies for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction, provided that:
 - a. The study is conducted in a manner that does not permit personal identification of parents/guardians and students by individuals other than representatives of the organization

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who have legitimate interests in the information.

- b. The information is destroyed when no longer needed for the purposes for which the study is conducted.
 - c. The district enters into a written agreement with the organization that includes the information specified in 34 CFR 99.31.
4. Officials and employees of private schools or school systems where the student is enrolled or intends to enroll. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.36)
 5. Local health departments operating countywide or regional immunization information and reminder systems and the California Department of Public Health, in which case the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of his/her rights in accordance with law prior to releasing the information. (Health and Safety Code 120440)

Persons, agencies, or organizations not afforded access rights by law may be granted access only through written consent of the parent/guardian or adult student, or by judicial order. (Education Code 49075)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student may consent to the release of records to others. Either parent may grant consent if both parents notify the district, in writing, that such an agreement has been made. (Education Code 49061)

(cf. 5021 - Noncustodial Parents)

Any person, agency, or organization granted access is prohibited from releasing information to another person, agency, or organization without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student unless specifically allowed by state law or the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (Education Code 49076)

De-Identification of Records

When authorized by law for any program audit, educational research, or other purposes, the Superintendent or designee may release information from a student record without prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student after the removal of all personally identifiable information. Prior to releasing such information, the Superintendent or designee shall make a reasonable determination that the student's identity is not personally identifiable, whether through single or multiple releases and taking into account other reasonably available information. (Education Code 49074, 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)

Process for Providing Access to Records

Student records shall be maintained in a central file at the school attended by the student or, when records are maintained in different locations, a notation shall be placed in the central file indicating where other records may be found. Parents/guardians shall be notified of the location of student records if not centrally located. (Education Code 49069; 5 CCR 433)

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The custodian of records shall be responsible for the security of student records and shall ensure that access is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

The custodian of records shall develop reasonable methods, including physical, technological, and administrative controls, to ensure that school officials and employees obtain access to only those student records in which they have legitimate educational interests. (34 CFR 99.31)

To inspect, review, or obtain copies of student records, authorized persons shall submit a request to the custodian of records. Prior to granting the request, the custodian of records shall authenticate the individual's identity. For any individual granted access based on a legitimate educational interest, the request shall specify the interest involved.

When prior written consent is required by law, the parent/guardian shall provide a written, signed, and dated consent before the district discloses the student record. Such consent may be given through electronic means in those cases where it can be authenticated. The district's consent form shall specify the records that may be disclosed, state the purpose of the disclosure, and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. Upon request by the parent/guardian, the district shall provide him/her a copy of the records disclosed. (34 CFR 99.30)

Within five business days following the date of request, a parent/guardian or other authorized person shall be granted access to inspect, review, and obtain copies of student records during regular school hours. (Education Code 49069)

Qualified certificated personnel shall be available to interpret records when requested. (Education Code 49069)

The custodian of records or the Superintendent or designee shall prevent the alteration, damage, or loss of records during inspection. (5 CCR 435)

Access Log

A log shall be maintained for each student's record which lists all persons, agencies, or organizations requesting or receiving information from the records and the legitimate educational interest of the requester. (Education Code 49064)

In every instance of inspection by persons who do not have assigned educational responsibility, the custodian of records shall make an entry in the log indicating the record inspected, the name of the person granted access, the reason access was granted, and the time and circumstances of inspection. (5 CCR 435)

The log does not need to include record of access by: (Education Code 49064)

1. Parents/guardians or adult students.

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2. Students who are 16 years of age or older or who have completed the 10th grade.
3. Parties obtaining district-approved directory information.

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

4. Parties who provide written parental consent, in which case the consent notice shall be filed with the record pursuant to Education Code 49075.
5. School officials and employees who have a legitimate educational interest.

The log shall be accessible only to the parent/guardian, adult student, dependent adult student, student who is age 16 years or older or who has completed the 10th grade, custodian of records, and certain state or federal officials. (Education Code 49064; 5 CCR 432)

Duplication of Student Records

To provide copies of any student record, the district shall charge a reasonable fee not to exceed the actual cost of providing the copies. No charge shall be made for providing up to two transcripts or up to two verifications of various records for any former student. No charge shall be made to locate or retrieve any student record. (Education Code 49065)

Changes to Student Records

No additions except routine updating shall be made to a student's record after high school graduation or permanent departure without prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student. (5 CCR 437)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student or an adult student may challenge the content of a record or offer a written response to a record. (Education Code 49061)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

Retention and Destruction of Student Records

All anecdotal information and assessment reports maintained as student records shall be dated and signed by the individual who originated the data. (5 CCR 431)

The following mandatory permanent student records shall be kept indefinitely: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Legal name of student.
2. Date and place of birth and method of verifying birth date.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

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3. Sex of student.
4. Name and address of parent/guardian of minor student
 - a. Address of minor student if different from the above.
 - b. Annual verification of parent/guardian's name and address and student's residence.

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

(cf. 5111.12 - Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment)

5. Entrance and departure dates of each school year and for any summer session or other extra session.
6. Subjects taken during each year, half-year, summer session, or quarter, and marks or credits given.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

7. Verification of or exemption from required immunizations.

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

8. Date of high school graduation or equivalent.

Mandatory interim student records, unless forwarded to another district, shall be maintained subject to destruction during the third school year following a determination that their usefulness has ceased or the student has left the district. These records include: (Education Code 48918, 51747; 5 CCR 432, 437, 16027)

1. Expulsion orders and the causes therefor.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

2. A log identifying persons or agencies who request or receive information from the student record.
3. Health information, including verification or waiver of the health screening for school entry.

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

4. Information on participation in special education programs, including required tests, case studies, authorizations, and evidence of eligibility for admission or discharge.

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

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5. Language training records.

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

6. Progress slips/notices required by Education Code 49066 and 49067.

7. Parental restrictions/stipulations regarding access to directory information.

8. Parent/guardian or adult student rejoinders to challenged records and to disciplinary action.

9. Parent/guardian authorization or denial of student participation in specific programs.

10. Results of standardized tests administered within the past three years.

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

11. Written findings resulting from an evaluation conducted after a specified number of missed assignments to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study.

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

Permitted student records may be destroyed six months after the student completes or withdraws from the educational program, including: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Objective counselor and/or teacher ratings

2. Standardized test results older than three years

3. Routine disciplinary data

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

4. Verified reports of relevant behavioral patterns

5. All disciplinary notices

6. Supplementary attendance records

Records shall be destroyed in a way that assures they will not be available to possible public inspection in the process of destruction. (5 CCR 437)

Transfer of Student Records

If a student transfers into this district from any other school district or a private school, the Superintendent or

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designee shall inform the student's parent/guardian of his/her rights regarding student records, including the right to review, challenge, and receive a copy of student records. (Education Code 49068; 5 CCR 438)

When a student transfers into this district from another district, the Superintendent or designee shall request that the student's previous district provide any records, either maintained by that district in the ordinary course of business or received from a law enforcement agency, regarding acts committed by the transferring student that resulted in his/her suspension or expulsion. (Education Code 48201)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)
(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled From Other Districts)

When a student transfers from this district to another school district or to a private school, the Superintendent or designee shall forward a copy of the student's mandatory permanent record as requested by the other district or private school. The original record or a copy shall be retained permanently by this district. If the transfer is to another California public school, the student's entire mandatory interim record shall also be forwarded. If the transfer is out of state or to a private school, the mandatory interim record may be forwarded. Permitted student records may be forwarded to any other district or private school. (Education Code 48918; 5 CCR 438)

Upon receiving a request from a county placing agency to transfer a student in foster care out of a district school, the Superintendent or designee shall transfer the student's records to the next educational placement within two business days. (Education Code 49069.5)

All student records shall be updated before they are transferred. (5 CCR 438)

Student records shall not be withheld from the requesting district because of any charges or fees owed by the student or parent/guardian. (5 CCR 438)

If the district is withholding grades, diploma, or transcripts from the student because of his/her damage or loss of school property, this information shall be sent to the requesting district along with the student's records.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

Notification of Parents/Guardians

Upon any student's initial enrollment, and at the beginning of each school year thereafter, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians and eligible students, in writing, of their rights related to student records. Insofar as practicable, the district shall provide these notices in the student's home language and shall effectively notify parents/guardians or eligible students with disabilities. (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The notice shall include: (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7, 99.34)

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1. The types of student records kept by the district and the information contained therein.
2. The title(s) of the official(s) responsible for maintaining each type of record.
3. The location of the log identifying those who request information from the records.
4. District criteria for defining school officials and employees and for determining legitimate educational interest.
5. District policies for reviewing and expunging student records.
6. The right to inspect and review student records and the procedures for doing so.
7. The right to challenge and the procedures for challenging the content of a student record that the parent/guardian or student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

8. The cost, if any, charged for duplicating copies of records.
9. The categories of information defined as directory information pursuant to Education Code 49073.
10. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records except when disclosure without consent is authorized by law.
11. Availability of the curriculum prospectus developed pursuant to Education Code 49091.14 containing the titles, descriptions, and instructional aims of every course offered by the school.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

12. Any other rights and requirements set forth in Education Code 49060-49078, and the right of parents/guardians to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by the district to comply with 20 USC 1232g.
13. A statement that the district forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that request the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.