

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, requires that the Halfway R-III School District, with certain exceptions, obtains your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's educational records. However, the district may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures outlined below. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the district to include this type of information from your child's educational records in certain school publications. Examples are

- A playbill showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs;
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, 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 consent. Outside organizations include but are not limited to companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal law require local education agencies (school districts) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the Halfway R-III School district to disclose directory information from your child's educational records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by August 28, 2009. The Halfway R-III School District has designated the following information as directory information for seventh through twelfth graders:

- Student's name
- Parents' name
- Parents' email addresses
- Grade level
- Participation in school-based activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, awards received
- Artwork or coursework displayed by the district
- Photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sounds unless such photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sounds would be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy