

Meridian Public School District
Protection of Pupil Rights (PPRA)
Annual Notice to Parents

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter is to inform you of your rights regarding district surveys, collection and use of student information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations. These rights include:

1. Your consent is required before students are required to complete 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;
 - Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - Illegal behavior, socially unacceptable behavior, behavior that implies your own guilt, or humiliating 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 is required by law to determine program eligibility.
2. You must receive notice and an opportunity to refuse to have your student participate in –
 - Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 - Any non-emergency, in depth 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. Exceptions are made for hearing, vision or scoliosis (spine disorder) screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 - Activities involving collection, release, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
3. You may review, upon request and before administration or use –
 - Protected information surveys of students;
 - Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution purposes; and
 - Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

When a student reaches the age of 18 or is an emancipated minor (has independent status) under State law, the parent’s rights transfer to the student.

The district has adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights. These policies relate to arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, release, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution purposes. Parents will be notified of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any important changes. The district will also inform parents at the beginning of the school year if the district has identified the specific or approximate dates of activities or surveys and will provide an opportunity for the parent to refuse to have his or her child participate in a specific activity or survey.

For activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notice of the planned activities and surveys and will be provided an opportunity to refuse to have their child participate in these activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any relevant surveys. The following are specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- collection, release or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution;
- administration of any protected information survey not funded by the U.S. Department of Education; and
- any non-emergency, in depth physical examination or screening as described above.

Attached, if scheduled at this time, is a “Scheduled Activities and Surveys” notice. For your convenience, we have also attached a “Parent Consent or Refusal Response” form that must be returned to the office.

To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of PPRA, contact:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Meridian Public School District

Important Information Concerning Student Privacy Rights

During the school year your child may make headlines as a hero of the big game, or he or she might win an academic honor. Often, stories about what is happening at school will feature students. We also might want to use your child's name or may get a great photograph or videotape of your child that we'd like to use in a school district publication or presentation.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) permits school districts to release "Directory Information" to certain people or institutions, such as the news media, unless the child's parent or guardian requests that such information not be released. "Directory Information" includes the following:

- Student name, address and phone number
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of athletic team members
- Dates of attendance
- Degrees and awards received
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student
- Publishing student names in the school newsletters or other publications

Meridian Public School District _____ will not release student information for commercial or other purposes. The purpose of a release will always be related to the conduct of school business.

If you do NOT want us to release "Directory Information" and/or publish your child's photograph, and/or release videotape of your child, please complete and return the form below as soon as possible. OTHERWISE, IT IS **NOT** NECESSARY TO TAKE ANY ACTION. If you have any questions, please call _____.

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Meridian Public School District Directory Information & Photographs

Please print - Return one form for each child.

Directory Information

- Do not release any "Directory Information" on my child.
or
 Do not release "Directory Information" on my child, but you can include my child's name in the school newsletter and school directory.

Photograph/Videotape

- Do not release my child's photograph/videotape to the news media or use my child's photograph in any District-wide printed publication (such as the calendar).

Class Photograph

- Do not release my child's individual class photo for use in the school annual or yearbook.

Child's Name: _____ School/Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____