

# Ozark School District Finley River Student Handbook



**2024-2025**

**Ozark School District  
Finley River School  
Ozark Innovation Center  
1600 W. Jackson  
(417) 582-5920**

**Mr. Justin Peery**  
*Director*

**Mrs. Deborah Parrish**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Miss Kate Stine**

**Mr. Brandon Clift**  
*Teachers*

**Mrs. Jeanette Middleton**

## **Ozark School District Mission Statement**

*To provide high-quality education for each student's future-readiness.*

## **Finley River School Mission Statement**

To provide a positive alternative educational environment designed to foster a sense of community where all students feel safe, valued, and empowered.

### **Vision**

A high-quality alternative educational program focusing on purposeful, individualized interventions.

### **Beliefs**

- We believe every student can develop resilience to overcome and perform personally, socially, and academically.
- We believe in creating a culture of care where every person is treated with unconditional positive regard.
- We believe in offering courses that are predictable yet flexible to meet individual ever-changing needs.

### **Table of Contents**

<a href="#">Welcome</a>	3	<a href="#">Acceptable Usage Policy</a>	13
<a href="#">Calendar</a>	4	<a href="#">Agreement</a>	13
<a href="#">Attendance</a>	4	<a href="#">Notices</a>	13-20
<a href="#">Graduation and Curriculum</a>			
<a href="#">Requirements</a>	4	Nondiscrimination	
<a href="#">State Mandated Exams</a>	5	Notice of Nondiscrimination	
<a href="#">Closed Campus</a>	7	Commitment to Compliance under the	
<a href="#">Meals</a>	7	American with Disabilities Act	
<a href="#">Health Service</a>	7	Compliance Coordinator	
<a href="#">School Bus Rules and</a>		Designation of Directory Information	
<a href="#">Regulations</a>	8	Notification under Family Educational Rights	
<a href="#">Private Transportation</a>	8	and Privacy Act	
<a href="#">Dual Enrolled Students</a>	9	Federal Programs (ESSA)	
<a href="#">Emergency Procedures/Drills</a>	9	Public Notice IDEA	
<a href="#">Students Dress and Personal</a>		Notification Direct Service Claiming	
<a href="#">Appearance Code</a>	9	Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Notice	
<a href="#">Student Discipline</a>	10	Teaching about Human Sexuality	
<a href="#">Bullying Policy</a>	11	Students Health Services and Requirements	
<a href="#">1:1 Initiative</a>	12	No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Complaint	
		Procedures	

\*\*Dual enrolled students will need to be aware of the [High School Handbook](#) specifics.

*To search this document, use the CTRL and F function to seek key words and phrases.*

## **Welcome**

We welcome you to Finley River School. FRS is a program of the Ozark School District providing a smaller environment and more individual/small group attendance for high school students. The program is based on building relationships and providing differentiated, project-based learning to meet the needs of our students. The goal for each student is to graduate with work preparedness and a career pathway.

Our students often attend because they have had difficulty at Ozark High School, have come from small districts around Ozark and are not ready for the larger school, have made mistakes outside of school affecting their progress in school and need a “fresh start,” as well as many other reasons.

Students attending FRS are considered students of Ozark High School. They receive an Ozark High School Diploma and may participate in graduation activities. Other activities at Ozark High School are accessible to FRS students as long as they meet OHS any criteria set for OHS students.

We hope you enjoy your time at Finley River with a staff who cares about you and your success!

**Miss Kate Stine, Mr. Brandon Clift, Mrs. Deborah Parrish,  
Mrs. Jeanette Middleton and Mr. Justin Peery**



## Ozark School 2024-2025 Calendar

Aug. 12-19	Staff PLC Days - No Students
Aug. 20	1st Day of School
Sept. 2	Labor Day - No School
Sept. 23	Staff PLC Day - No Students
Oct. 18	End of Term 1
Oct. 21	Staff PLC Day - No Students
Nov. 1	No School
Nov. 5	Staff PLC Day - No Students
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving Break - No School
Dec. 20	End of Semester 1
Dec. 23-Jan.3	Christmas Break - No School
Jan. 6	Staff PLC Day - No Students
Jan. 7	Semester 2 Begins, Classes Resume
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
Feb. 3	Staff PLC Day - No Students
Feb. 17	Presidents' Day - No School
March 14	End of Term 3
March 14	Staff PLC Day - No Students
March 17-21	Spring Break - No School
April 7	Staff PLC Day - No Students
April 18-21	Easter Break - No School
May 23	End of Semester 2 - Last Day/Half Day
May 26	Memorial Day - Offices Closed

School Class Duration time: 7:35 am - 2:50 pm [Bell and Lunch Schedule](#)

### Attendance

Good attendance is crucial for academic achievement as well as success in the workplace. Students at Finley River School track their attendance and set goals for improvement as necessary.

- Students will be required to keep their attendance at 85 percent or higher with exceptions being made for: long-term illness, family situations requiring a student to stay home, need to work due to serious financial difficulty. Students entering the program with attendance below 85% are expected to maintain a growth pattern.
- Students whose attendance falls below 85 percent will need to show verification of reasons for absence, attend school and/or district attendance committee meeting, and/or sign an attendance contract describing the plan for *increasing* attendance.
- If a student is unwilling to improve attendance, a meeting with Finley River School staff, parent or other authorized adult, and the student will be called to determine the necessity of remaining at Finley River School.

Early dismissal: Students who will be leaving early must have a parent or other authorized person send a note, call the office, or report to the office to sign out the student. Students can earn early dismissal privileges based upon meeting work goals.

## **Graduation & Curriculum Requirements**

To meet graduation requirements of Ozark High School, students must complete a minimum of 30 units of credit during grades nine and above. The student's program must be cooperatively planned and approved by the student, his or her parents, and the school. The program shall include courses of study in social studies, English, mathematics, science, fine arts, practical arts, and physical education as specified below.

### 2023-2024 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

• English/Language Arts	4
• Social Studies	3
• Mathematics	3
• Science	3
• Fine Arts	1
• Practical Arts	1
• Physical Education	1
• Health	½
• Academy Exploration (Career Op. Class '25)	½
• Personal Finance	½
• Electives	12 ½
• Total	30

**English** must include English I and II. Students must complete four units of English; it may include one unit of speech and/or debate.

**Practical Arts** include health science, graphic design, business, industrial technology, agriculture, family and consumer science, vocational/technical courses, COE/Marketing, and JROTC.

**Fine Arts** include art, vocal and instrumental music, and drama.

**Science** includes Physical Science (9<sup>th</sup>), and Biology (10<sup>th</sup>). The additional unit of science may be obtained through a science elective, or through a third Vocational Agriculture class, chosen from a combination of the following classes: Ag Science I, Forestry, Animal Science, Equine Science, Fish & Wildlife Management, Horticulture, and Landscaping.

**Social Studies** include Modern American History (9<sup>th</sup>), Contemporary American History (10<sup>th</sup>), and Government (11<sup>th</sup>). Beginning with graduating class of 2020 the course offerings include: American History (9<sup>th</sup>), World History (10<sup>th</sup>), and Government (11<sup>th</sup>).

**Mathematics** includes Algebra I, Investigative Algebra or Concepts of Algebra 1B is a required course for all students, plus additional mathematics to equal three credits. If high school elective credit was earned for Junior High (8<sup>th</sup> grade) Algebra I, three additional math credits are required.

**Physical Education** - Students must have 1 credit of P.E., including one credit taken their freshman year (Co-Ed Basic P.E. or Freshman Weights) and may receive additional credits from P.E. courses or JROTC.

College-bound students are strongly urged to select additional elective units from the core curriculum areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies, as well as foreign language. The goal for college-bound students should be 16 core credits or more.

In addition to the program of study for graduation, a student must pass proficiency exams covering Missouri and the United States constitutions to qualify for graduation from the District. No student shall graduate without having successfully completed a course of instruction of at least one semester in length on the institutions, branches, and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local government and the electoral process.

Dual-credit and dual-enrollment courses taken in high school for both high school and college credit may be counted toward the core curriculum requirements.

OHS Academies [LINK](#)

## **State Mandated Exams**

End-Of-Course exam - All students will be required to take a summative End-Of-Course exam (EOC) for each of the following courses: Algebra 1 or Algebra 1B, Biology, English 2, and Government.

A student who is passing an above-named course will take the EOC in order to receive credit for the course.

As a general rule, students who are failing with a 40 percent and above that still have an opportunity to pass the course, will take the EOC. If the student who fails the course and does not score proficient or advanced on the EOC exam, he/she will be re-enrolled in the course the subsequent school year.

College & Career Readiness (CCR) Exams - All graduating seniors must have a score on file from a qualifying College and Career Readiness exam, including ACT, SAT, ASVAB, or Work Keys.

## **Closed Campus**

The Ozark School system operates on the basis of a “closed campus.” Most simply stated, this means visitors to the school must immediately report to the main school office and students may not leave school grounds during the school day without parental permission and checking out with the main school office. This includes leaving from the parking lot prior to entering the school building.

The purpose of this is not to interfere with individual student’s needs; it assists families and the school alike to know who is in the building. Students should not leave campus for lunch. Non-students or visitors may not eat lunch at school unless they have obtained prior administrator approval. Students may not go to their cars during the school day without office approval.

## **Meals**

The school cafeteria is a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price. All students who eat lunch at school will eat in the OIC cafeteria. Students may buy their lunch or may bring their own lunch from home. Students may not leave the school premises during the lunch period.

Breakfast and lunch will be served in the OIC cafeteria daily for all Ozark students.

## **Health Service**

The Ozark High School and OIC nurses are assigned to Finley River. They assist students who have health issues at school and also offer assistance in the event of an emergency. Parents are urged to inform the school nurse of any student health issues so the school may address the student’s needs. To this end, online medical registration is required. Students will be released only to those listed on the emergency contact list.

## **Medications**

Some students require medication during the school day. Authorization for Medication forms must be filled out by a parent and/or physician. Forms are available from the school nurse. Administering medication to students during school hours is discouraged and restricted to necessary medication that cannot be given at home. If the physician’s orders indicate that a medication must be given during school hours, the medication may be administered by complying with the following instructions:

### **Prescription Medications:**

1. The parent or guardian must provide the medication in the original prescription bottle (the pharmacist will provide properly labeled containers).
2. The parent or guardian must provide written permission which includes: the student’s name, date, name of medication, dosage, time of administration and a parent/guardian’s signature.



3. The parent should not provide more than a one week supply at a time.
4. Long-term medications (longer than two weeks) must be accompanied by a Physician's Request form provided by the school.

Non-Prescription Medications:

1. The parent/guardian will provide the medication in the original container.
2. The parent should not provide more than a one week supply at a time. (Board Policies [JHC](#) & [JHCD](#))

**Parents/guardians are required to transport all medication.** Please contact the **Parents should make the school aware of any medical condition a child may have.** If a child has a temporary injury or condition and should be excused from or have limited participation in physical activities, we require a note from the parent.

## **School Bus Rules & Regulations**

Finley River School bus riders will ride their neighborhood bus to Ozark High School and exit at the Ozark Innovation Center stop in the morning.

Riding the school bus is a privilege. Therefore, disobedience of the following rules may result in loss of bus riding privileges.

1. The driver is the overseer of the pupils and bus.
2. Pupils must be on time; the bus cannot wait beyond its regular schedule for those who are tardy.
3. Pupils should never stand in the roadway while waiting for the bus. Pupils are expected to wait in a safe place and to enter the bus safely.
4. Conduct is to be observed while riding the bus; appropriate conversation among students is permitted as long as it does not violate school rules or distract the bus driver's operation of the bus.
5. Pupils must not at any time extend their head, arms, or any other body part out of bus windows or doors.
6. Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
7. Any damage to the bus must be reported immediately to the driver.
8. No smoking and/or use of smokeless tobacco are allowed on the bus.
9. Any type or form of vandalism to the bus by students will result in disciplinary action and reimbursement to the school for the cost of any damages.
10. Students are **NOT** permitted to ride home on another bus, unless emergency situations arise, due to overcrowding and limited capacities for passengers.
11. Follow this link for more information: [Transportation Expectations](#)

## **Private Transportation**

The following stipulations apply for all students who transport themselves to school in a private vehicle.

1. The vehicle is to be operated in a safe manner at all times while on school property, while at any school activity whether on or off of school property, and on all roadways.
2. Once students enter the driveway or school grounds they are considered “at school.”
3. From the time of arrival until the close of the school day, students are not permitted to be in or around cars or to loiter in the parking lot.
4. Students may not bring private transportation onto school property unless they, and the vehicle, conform to existing regulations concerning the operation of such vehicles by the State of Missouri.
5. Private transportation to school is a privilege. The administration may revoke this privilege at any time.
6. Students are not to be on school property after hours, or on non-school days, unless they are participating in or attending a school-sponsored activity. The District may, at its discretion, refer student trespassers to law enforcement.

### **Dual Enrolled Students**

Students interested in taking courses at Ozark High School, including the Ozark Innovation Center, must receive permission from the Finley River School director and an Ozark High School administrator. Permission is based on: classes needed, credits needed, behavior, and attendance. This includes students enrolled in the A+ program. Transportation may be provided by the district. If a student has their own transportation, a transportation form must be completed with a parent signature. Please see the director of Finley River School for more information. **Here is the link to the [High School Handbook](#) for reference to programming expectations Finley River students may access as a dual enrollment student.**

### **Emergency Procedures/Drills**

Fire, tornado, earthquake, and intruder drills are held at regular intervals during the year. Each student should learn the instructions posted in each classroom for proper procedures to use during these drills. **Please note that falsely pulling fire alarms results in severe disciplinary action**

### **Student Dress & Personal Appearance Code**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of allowing individual student expression as well as the necessity of protecting student health and safety and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to education. Student dress code procedures must be designed with the goal of balancing these competing interests.

All dress code procedures will adhere to health and safety codes and comply with applicable law. Dress that materially disrupts the educational environment will be prohibited. No procedure will impose dress and grooming rules based on gender in violation of Title IX. District procedures will specifically define ambiguous terms, and examples will be provided when practicable.

The Board of Education expects student dress and grooming to be neat, clean, and in good taste so that each student may share in promoting a positive, healthy, and safe atmosphere within the school district.

Student dress and grooming will be the responsibility of the individual and parents/guardians, within the following guidelines:

1. Dress and grooming will be clean and in keeping with health, sanitary, and safety requirements.
2. All students must wear shoes, boots, or other types of footwear.
3. Dress and grooming will not disrupt the educational environment.
4. Class activities that present a concern for student safety may require the student to adjust hair and/or clothing during the class period in the interest of maintaining safety standards.
5. Additional dress guidelines may be imposed upon students participating in certain extracurricular activities.

When, in the judgment of the principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress does not comply with the above criteria, the student may be required to make modifications. No employee or volunteer shall direct a student to remove an emblem, insignia, or garment, including a religious emblem, insignia, or garment, as long as it is worn in a manner that does not promote disruptive behavior.

Student dress code can be found by reviewing the JFCA [Student Dress Code](#).

## **Student Discipline**

Finley River School practices Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). PBIS is a program for creating safer and more effective schools by structuring the learning environment to support the academic and social success of all students. The process supports the adoption and long-term implementation of efficient and effective discipline throughout the school environment. PBIS methods are research-based, proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behavior in schools and supported by a three-tiered model. Finley River School administrators believe all students attending the program can behave appropriately. FRS will not allow students to prevent a teacher from teaching, or to prevent other students from learning. Classroom rules, rewards and consequences are established. There are also guidelines for out-of-class behavior (hallway, restroom, field trips, and the parking lot). Behavior choices are made by the student. District policies on discipline and consequences apply.

Please refer to the Ozark School District Board Policy [JG Student Discipline](#) and [JG-R1 Student Discipline](#) for more specific information for infractions.

### **Reporting to Law Enforcement**

It is the policy of the Ozark School District to report all crimes occurring on District property to law enforcement, including, but not limited to, the crimes the District is required to report in

accordance with law. A list of crimes the District is required to report is included in Board Policy [JGF Discipline Reporting and Records](#). The principal shall also notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and superintendent if a student is discovered to possess a controlled substance or weapon in violation of the District's policy. In addition, the superintendent shall notify the appropriate division of the juvenile or family court upon suspension for more than ten (10) days or expulsion of any student who the District is aware is under the jurisdiction of the court.

#### Documentation in Student's Discipline Record

The principal, other administrators or designee will maintain all discipline records as deemed necessary for the orderly operation of the schools and in accordance with law and Board Policy [JGF Discipline Reporting and Records](#).

#### Conditions of Suspension, Expulsion and Other Disciplinary Consequences

All students who are suspended or expelled, regardless of the reason, are prohibited from participating in or attending any District-sponsored activity, or being on or near District property or the location of any District activity for any reason, unless permission is granted by the superintendent or his/her designee. In addition, the District may prohibit students from participating in activities or restrict a student's access to District property as a disciplinary consequence even if a student is not suspended or expelled from school, if appropriate. In accordance with law, any student who is suspended for any offenses listed in § 160.261, RSMo., or any act of violence or drug-related activity defined by policy as a serious violation of school discipline shall not be allowed to be within 1,000 feet of any District property or any activity of the District, regardless of whether the activity takes place on District property, unless one of the following conditions exist:

1. The student is under the direct supervision of the student's parent, legal guardian, custodian or another adult designated in advance, in writing, to the student's principal by the student's parent, legal guardian or custodian, and the superintendent or his/her designee has authorized the student to be on District property.
2. The student is enrolled in and attending an alternative school that is located within 1,000 feet of a public school in the District.
3. The student resides within 1,000 feet of a public school in the District and is on the property of his or her residence. If a student violates the prohibitions in this section, he or she may be suspended or expelled in accordance with the offense, "Failure to Meet Conditions of Suspension, Expulsion or Other Disciplinary Consequences," listed below.

### **Bullying Policy**

**Bullying**: In accordance with state law, bullying is defined as intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities or benefits of any student without exception; or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions including violence, gestures, theft, or property damage; oral, written,

or electronic communication including name-calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of reprisal or retaliation for reporting such acts.

Cyberbullying: Cyberbullying is a form of bullying committed by the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer or pager. The District has jurisdiction over cyberbullying that uses the District's technology resources or that originates on District property, at a District activity or on District transportation. Even when cyberbullying does not involve District property, activities or technology resources, the District may impose consequences and discipline for those who engage in cyberbullying if there is a sufficient nexus to the educational environment, the behavior materially and substantially disrupts the educational environment, the communication involves a threat as defined by law, or the District is otherwise allowed by law to address the behavior.

School employees, substitutes or volunteers are expected to intervene to prevent student bullying, appropriately discipline the perpetrator, assist the victim and report the incident to the building principal or designee for further investigation and action. Any school employee, substitute or volunteer who witnesses or has firsthand knowledge of bullying of a student must report the incident. Students who have been subjected to bullying, or who have witnessed or have knowledge of bullying, are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to a school employee. Any school employee receiving such a report shall promptly transmit the report to the building principal or designee. If the bullying incident involves students from more than one District building, the report should be made to the principal or designee of the building in which the incident took place, or, if more appropriate, to the principal or designee of the building attended by the majority of the participants in the incident.

(See Board Policy [JFCF Bullying](#))

## **1:1 Initiative**

Finley River School is a 1:1 building. All students have access to a school-provided computer during the school year. The student computer is the property of the Ozark School District. This computer is on loan as a student, and must be used, both at home and at school, with the Ozark High School Policies and Procedures, the District's Acceptable Use Policy, and any applicable laws. Use of this computer, access to the computer network, the internet, and email are a privilege provided for educational purposes only. They are intended to support the learning objectives of OHS, the Finley River School, and Ozark School District. ***Only District computers are allowed on the school's secured network.***

Students must sign and adhere to the Ozark School District computer, internet and general use and care policies. Parents must give written consent in order for students to take the computer home, where students should adhere to the Ozark School District computer, internet and home use policies.

The full [policy and procedures and information about one-to-one](#) can be found by clicking on the highlighted link. Free local Wi-Fi spots are also included.

## **Acceptable Usage Policy Agreement**

Please click on the following links to access the Technology Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) [AUP](#) and the Board Policy [EHB Technology Usage](#) Finley River School is a choice program committed to the education of the whole child. In an effort to support the Social Emotional Learning of students who are struggling on many levels that affect academic performance, students will not have possession of their personal cell phones during the instructional day. An individual locker will be provided in the office for students to secure a phone during the day. Each student will be responsible for their phone locker key. Should they lose the key a replacement charge will be applied to the student account. Students may access their phones before and after school. If students do not wish to use the provided lockers they may leave them at home or in a vehicle, but will not be allowed to go to their car to access the phone during the instructional day. All calls and messages must go through the office. Students may use a school office phone to make calls home during the day. Please call the office at 417-582-5920.

## **Notices**

### **Nondiscrimination**

See School Board Policy [AC](#)

### **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral and applicants for employment, and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with the Ozark School District (“District”) are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. In addition, the District provides equal access to the boy scouts of America and other designated youth groups.

Any person having inquiries concerning the District’s compliance with the laws and regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) or the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, is directed to the respective Compliance Coordinator listed below, who oversees the School District’s efforts to comply with the laws and regulations implementing the laws and regulations cited above.

The District has established grievance procedures for persons unable to resolve problems arising under the statutes above. The District’s Compliance Coordinator will provide information regarding those procedures upon request.

Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under any of the laws and regulations cited above may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; telephone (816) 268-0550.

### **Commitment to Compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act**

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), the Ozark School District (“District”) does not discriminate on the basis of disability against qualified individuals with a disability with respect to the District’s services, programs or activities.

Employment: The District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. The District complies with the federal regulations under Title I of the ADA (which governs the application of the ADA in the hiring and employment setting).

Effective Communication: The District will comply with the ADA with respect to providing auxiliary aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in District programs, services, and activities. These aids and services are designed to make information and communications accessible to people who have impairments, in areas such as speech, hearing, and vision. The District will not place a surcharge on a qualified individual with a disability, or any group of qualified individuals with disabilities, to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy (for example, retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but inaccessible to users of wheelchairs).

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a service, program, or activity of the District should contact the respective Compliance Coordinator, whose contact information is listed below. Such contact should be made as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours before the scheduled event, and, preferably, at least five (5) business days before the event.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The District will make reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that qualified individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy its services, programs, and activities.

The ADA does not require the District to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden. Complaints that a District service, program, or activity is not accessible to persons with a disability may be directed to the Compliance Coordinator. In addition, as stated in the District’s Notice of Nondiscrimination, a person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under Title II of the ADA may contact the Office for Civil

Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; (816) 268-0550.

Compliance Coordinator

Laura Eakins  
Director of Special Services  
PO Box 166  
302 N. 4th Ave.  
Ozark, MO 65721  
Phone: (417) 582-5900  
Fax: (417) 582-5960

**Notification under Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act**

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Ozark School District (“District”), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education 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. The District complies fully with FERPA, which affords parents/guardians (“parents”) and students who are at least age 18 (“eligible students”) the following rights:

Right to Inspect: Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student’s “educational records,” as that term is defined under FERPA, within 45 days of the date upon which the District receives a request for access. The District is not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. The District may charge a fee for copies.

Right to Prevent Disclosure: Parents or eligible students have the right to prevent disclosure of educational records to third parties with certain limited exceptions. The District will attempt to limit the disclosure of information contained in educational records to those instances when prior written consent has been given for the disclosure. However, upon request, the District will disclose information to officials of other schools in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The District may also disclose information under the provisions of FERPA that allow disclosure without prior written consent, as well as directory information (unless you have refused to permit such disclosure of directory information), in accordance with FERPA regulations. The District will disclose educational records to school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the records. Officials include those persons employed by the District, whether paid or unpaid, as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member, including health or medical staff; persons retained by or under contract to the District to perform a special task, such as an attorney, auditor, etc.; or persons who are employed by the District’s law enforcement unit. School officials have a legitimate educational interest if the officials are: performing a task related to a student’s education; performing a task related to the discipline of a student; providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student’s family, such as health care, counseling, job placement, or financial aid; or maintaining the safety and security of the campus.



Designation of Directory Information: The District has designated certain information contained in the educational records of its students as directory information for purposes of FERPA. The District considers the following to be directory information:

**Students in kindergarten through eighth grade** — Student’s name; parent’s name; grade level; participation in school-based activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; honors and awards received; artwork or coursework displayed by the District; and photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound unless such photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound would be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy.

**High school and vocational school students** — Student’s name; parent’s name; address; telephone number; grade level; participation in school-based activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; degrees, honors and awards received; artwork or coursework displayed by the District; and photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound unless such photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound would be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy.

The District may disclose such directory information for any purpose in its discretion without the consent of a parent of a student or an eligible student. Parents of students and eligible students have the right, however, to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the above information as directory information. In that case, the information will not be disclosed except with the consent of a parent or student, or as otherwise allowed by FERPA. Any parent or student refusing to have any or all of the designated directory information disclosed must file written notification to this effect with the principal of the school which the student attends. In the event a notification of refusal is not filed, the District assumes that neither a parent of a student or an eligible student objects to the release of the directory information designated.

Military Recruiter Access/Student Recruiting Information: Upon request of military recruiters, the District is required by law to provide access to secondary students’ names, addresses, and telephone listings. However, any secondary student or parent of a secondary student may request that the student’s name, address, and telephone listing not be released without prior written consent of the parent. Requests that a student’s name, address, and telephone listing not be released to military recruiters must be submitted, in writing, to the Assistant Superintendent, Ozark School District, 302 North 4th Avenue, P.O. Box 166, Ozark, MO 65721.

Right to Request Amendment: Parents or eligible students have the right to request that the District correct any parts of an educational record believed to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of their rights. A parent or eligible student must submit the request to the Director of Special Services, Ozark School District, 302 North 4th Avenue, P.O. Box 166, Ozark, MO 65721.

The request must identify, in writing, the part of the record sought to be corrected and specify why it is inaccurate/misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record, it will notify the

parents or eligible student and provide information on the right to a hearing to present evidence that the record should be changed.

Right to Complain to FERPA Office: Parents or eligible students have the right to file an external complaint regarding the District's implementation of FERPA, and such complaint may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

Federal Programs (ESSA)

Please go to the following links for updated notifications:

[Parent Letter](#)

[Complaint Procedure](#)

## **Public Notice IDEA**

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the District but are attending a private school within the District, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Ozark School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation/intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

The Ozark School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Ozark School District assures that personally-identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the District to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Ozark School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed at the District Office located at 302 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Any inquiries concerning the District's compliance may be directed to:

Dr. Laura Eakins, Director of Special Services, P.O. Box 166, 1600 W. 14th Street Ozark, MO 65721, (417) 582-5900, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Or you may contact the Office of Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; (816) 268-0550

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

### **Notification Direct Service Claiming**

The Ozark School District's School Agency receives funding from the Medicaid Direct Service Claiming (DSC) program for IEP covered services to eligible children through the State's Medicaid agency. This is a state-approved program that allows the School Agency to receive reimbursement from federal funds for providing some health-related covered services to eligible children in our school system. Examples of covered services include speech therapy, assistance with daily living skills, physical therapy, and nursing services. The District is required to notify parents/guardians of the District's participation and the IDEA regulations stated below.

The School Agency, working with the State Medicaid agency, will need to determine if a child is eligible or should become eligible in the school-based Medicaid program. Written consent indicates that parents/guardians understand and agree that the District will submit their child's information to the State Medicaid agency and their authorized agencies to verify eligibility and submit claims for the DSC program. The school may use Medicaid benefits in which a child participates to provide or pay for services documented in the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Parents are not required to sign up for or enroll in Medicaid to receive IEP services or a free appropriate public education, nor are they responsible for any out of pocket expenses for these IEP services. Also, the School Agency's access to these benefits is not allowed if it would have a negative impact on your public insurance.

The District will provide the required services to children at no cost to the parents/guardians whether or not they grant written consent. Consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time. The School Agency's use of this reimbursement program does not in any way affect or impact other Medicaid benefits to which the child is entitled, including any otherwise eligible services out of the school.

Please contact Dr. Laura Eakins at [lauraeakins@ozarktigers.org](mailto:lauraeakins@ozarktigers.org) or (417) 582-5900 with questions.

## **Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Notice**

The federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (“PPRA”) affords parents certain rights regarding a school district’s initiation of certain federally funded surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) 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, anti-social, 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.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of: Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding; any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the District 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; and activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, 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.

These rights transfer to from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. The District has adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

The District will notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed

below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement: Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution; Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education; Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above. Individuals who believe their rights under the PPRA have been violated may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.

**Teaching about Human Sexuality**  
(School Board Policy [IGAEB](#) )

**Student Health Services & Requirements**  
(School Board Policy [JHC](#))