



### Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

As a high school student enrolled in college courses through a dual enrollment program, you are in a unique position where your educational records fall under the jurisdiction of both your high school and the postsecondary institution. It is important for you to understand how the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, applies to your situation.

FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) protects the privacy of your education records and gives you certain rights related to the access and disclosure of those records. These rights shift depending on the type of institution that maintains your records and your enrollment status.

When you are enrolled in high school, your parents or legal guardians generally hold the rights under FERPA. This allows them to access your high school transcripts, grades, attendance, and disciplinary records. However, once you enroll in a college or university, even as a dual enrollment student and even if you are under 18 years old, FERPA rights related to your college records transfer to you as the student. The college or university now considers you an “eligible student” under FERPA.

This means your college instructors, grades, class participation, and academic progress are protected by FERPA, and your parents, school counselors, or teachers may not receive this information unless you give your written consent. The postsecondary institution may only release your college records to others if you authorize it or if a FERPA exception applies.

In some dual enrollment programs, your high school and college may have an agreement in place that allows certain college records to be shared with your high school under the “school official” exception. This only applies if your high school is considered to have a legitimate educational interest and is acting under the direct control of the postsecondary institution regarding the use of student information.

**As a dual enrollment student,  
it is your responsibility to:**

- Understand what records are maintained by your high school and what records are maintained by your college
- Know that your college grades and communications with professors are private and will not be automatically shared with your parents or high school
- Provide written consent to your college if you want your records shared with others.
- Communicate with your college instructors and support services directly if you have questions or concerns about your academic performance.

By becoming informed about FERPA, you can take ownership of your educational records and actively participate in your learning experience across both high school and college settings.

### Resources for additional information:

**Parent Guide to FERPA:**

<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/parent-guide-family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-ferpa>

**Student Guide to FERPA:**

<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/eligible-student-guide-family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-ferpa>

**Full FERPA regulations:**

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-A/part-99>