



Spencer-Van Etten Central School District

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that the school 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, in writing, that you object to the release of such information. The primary purpose of directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, is to allow the district to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- The Honor Roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs;
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

If you do not want the district to disclose some or all directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by the end of the second week of school each September. The district has designated the following student information as directory information: name, address, telephone number, date of birth, major course of study, participating in school activities or sports, weight and height if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, grade level, photograph, email address and enrollment status.

In addition, New York State Education Law and federal laws require school districts to provide military recruiters, upon request, with high school student names, addresses and telephone listings; however, parents have the right to request that the district not release their child's contact information to military recruiters without their prior written consent. Also, under FERPA, parents and student over 18 years of age have a right to inspect and review their child's education records or to request amendment of records believed to be inaccurate or misleading. Student records are private unless the parent or student older than 18 consents to disclosure of personally identifiable information. Parents of current students may review their child's school records by contacting the principal.