

Young Scholars of Western Pennsylvania Charter School
600 Newport Drive, Pittsburg, PA 15234
2016-2017 School Year

Annual Notification of Rights under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for the 2016-2017 School Year/Notice to Parents and Guardians Regarding the Disclosure of Student "Directory Information"

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, affords parents, legally emancipated students, and students over eighteen (18) years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records.

These rights are briefly summarized below and are explained more fully in the Board's Student Records Policy, which is on file at the School and is available upon request:

- A) The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within forty-five (45) days of the day Young Scholars of Western Pennsylvania Charter School ("YSWPCS") receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to YSWPCS's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The YSWPCS official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected.
- B) The right to request the amendment of the student's educational record(s) the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask YSWPCS to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students should write to YSWPCS's CEO, clearly identifying the part of the record(s) they want amended, and specify why the record(s) is inaccurate or misleading. If YSWPCS decides not to amend the record(s) as requested by the parent or eligible student, YSWPCS will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision in writing and advise of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- C) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational record(s) except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent, as discussed below.
- D) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by YSWPCS to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520**

Release of Records Without Consent

Generally, YSWPCS must have written permission from parents or eligible students in order to release any information from a student's education records. However, FERPA allows YSWPCS to disclose that information without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- A) School officials with legitimate educational interests. A School Official may include a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law unit personnel); a person serving on the Board; a person or company with whom YSWPCS has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); contractors, consultants, volunteers, and other outside service providers used by YSWPCS; or a parent or student serving on official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another YSWPCS official in performing his/her tasks. A School Official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record(s) in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility;
- B) Other schools, school systems, or institutions of postsecondary education to which a student is transferring;
- C) Authorized representatives of the U.S. Comptroller General, U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities. Disclosures may be made in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal or State supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. The entities and officials identified here may re-disclose student information to outside entities and/or individuals that are designated as "authorized representatives" to conduct an audit or evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. A designation of an "authorized representative," other than an employee, shall be memorialized in a written agreement. The same agreement shall contain provisions intended to guard the privacy of student information. Student records for children seven (7) years or older is exempt from the use of authorized representatives for agencies running programs to improve social, emotional and physical development;

- D) Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for aid, determine the amount of aid, determine the conditions of aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of aid;
- E) Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school, to develop, validate or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction. The U.S. Comptroller General, U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities may re-disclose student information to organizations conducting studies identified here. Any re-disclosure of student information, whether by schools or the entities and officials identified here, requires a written agreement. The written agreement shall contain provisions intended to guard the privacy of student information;
- F) Accrediting organizations;
- G) To parents of dependent students for IRS tax purposes;
- H) To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- I) Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- J) State and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

YSWPCS must maintain records of each request for access and disclosure of information from a student's education record(s), except for disclosures to school officials with legitimate educational interests, disclosures to parties with written consent from parents or eligible students, disclosures of Directory Information (discussed below), disclosures under select judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, and disclosures to parents or eligible students. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the records of requests for access and disclosures.

Release of Directory Information

Directory Information includes information contained in the educational record(s) of a student, which is not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed, so that it may be disclosed without prior parental consent, unless parents or eligible students have advised YSWPCS to the contrary in accordance with YSWPCS procedures. The primary purpose of Directory Information is to allow YSWPCS to include this type of information from the student's educational records in certain school-related publications or notices.

As part of YSWPCS's annual notification under FERPA, YSWPCS designates for the 2016-2017 School Year the following types or categories of information as "Directory Information":

- Student Name
- Participation in officially recognized activities, clubs, and sports
- Naming of student to the Honor Roll, National Honor Society or as Valedictorian
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Electronic Mail Address
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

"Directory Information" for the 2016-2017 School Year also includes:

- A) Except for social security number, a student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used with one or more factors, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user; and
- B) Except for social security number, a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used with one or more factors, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

Examples of how and where YSWPCS may disclose Directory Information include:

- Newsletters

- A playbill showing student's role in a drama production
- The annual yearbook
- Honor Roll or other recognition lists
- Graduation programs
- Sports activity sheets
- Companies or outside organizations that manufacture yearbooks
- Newspapers or other news sources
- Class Lists
- Staff and/or Student Directories and/or listings
- YSWPCS Website
- YSWPCS Bulletin Boards

These examples are for illustration only and are not an exclusive list of the manner in which Directory Information may be disclosed. This Notice provides parents and eligible students with an opportunity to object in writing to any or all of those types of information that YSWPCS has designated as Directory Information. Parents and eligible students have the right to refuse to permit the release by notifying YSWPCS in writing that they do not want any or all of those types of information to be designated as Directory Information.

Please note that an opt out of Directory Information disclosures does not prevent YSWPCS from identifying a student by name or from disclosing a student's name, identifier or institutional e-mail address in class in which the student is enrolled. The right to opt out of Directory Information disclosures does not include a right to remain anonymous in class, and may not be used to impede routine classroom communications and interactions, whether class is held in a specified physical location or on-line through electronic communications. Likewise, an opt out of Directory Information disclosures does not prevent YSWPCS from requiring a student to wear, to display publicly, or to disclose a student ID card or badge that exhibits information that YSWPCS designated as "Directory Information" for the 2016-2017 School Year above.

YOUR ACTION IS REQUIRED IF YOU WISH "DIRECTORY INFORMATION" NOT TO BE PUBLISHED. Please submit any refusal with the types of information you wish removed from the list of Directory Information and mail your written objections on or before **November 1, 2016**, to the CEO of YSWPCS at:

**Young Scholars of Western Pennsylvania Charter School
600 Newport Drive, Pittsburg, PA 15234**

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please call or write the CEO at YSWPCS at: Young Scholars of Western Pennsylvania Charter School 600 Newport Drive, Pittsburg, PA 15234. If you do not submit a written refusal on or before November 1, 2016 then YSWPCS may disclose directory information without your prior consent.

THE CONTENT OF THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN STRAIGHTFORWARD, SIMPLE ENGLISH. IF A PERSON DOES NOT UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS NOTICE, HE OR SHE SHOULD ASK THE CEO OF YSWPCS FOR AN EXPLANATION. YSWPCS WILL ARRANGE FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR PARENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY. IF A PARENT IS DEAF OR BLIND OR HAS NO WRITTEN LANGUAGE, YSWPCS WILL ARRANGE FOR COMMUNICATION OF THIS NOTICE IN THE MODE NORMALLY USED BY PARENT (E.G., SIGN LANGUAGE, BRAILLE, OR ORAL COMMUNICATION). IF A STUDENT HAS A DISABILITY, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN YSWPCS'S ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AND RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL