

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

(1) The rights to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask Wamego School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their 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.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

{NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.}

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

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

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

Additional State & Federal Laws that Apply to Students

There are laws that students and parents need to be aware of and understand. Please read the following legislative summaries and if you have any questions, contact any building administrator.

Weapons at school: A student shall not knowingly possess, handle or transmit any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon at school, on school property or at a school-sponsored event. This shall include any weapon, and item being used as a weapon or destructive device, or any facsimile of a weapon. The following items are considered a weapon according to this law:

- Any weapon which will or is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
- The frame or receiver of any weapon described in the preceding example;
- Any firearm muffler or silencer;
- Any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine or similar device;
- Any weapon which will, or which may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant;
- Any bludgeon, sand club, metal knuckles, or throwing star;
- Any knife which has a blade that open automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in the handle of the knife, or any knife having a blade that open or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward or centrifugal thrust or movement.

Possession of a firearm or other weapon or facsimile of a weapon shall result in expulsion from school for a period of one calendar year. The superintendent may recommend this expulsion requirement be modified on a case-by-case basis. A student who possesses a firearm at school or on school property shall be reported to law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Reporting violations of state law to law enforcement

Whenever a pupil 13 years or older has been expelled from school or suspended for an extended term (more than 10 days), the principal shall give written notice of this individual to the appropriate law enforcement agency if the reason for the action was for:

- Possession of a weapon at school, on school property, or at a school activity;
- Possession, use, sale or distribution of an illegal drug or controlled substance (including alcohol) at school, on school property or at a school activity;

Behavior at school, on school property or at a school activity, which resulted in, or was substantially likely to have resulted in serious bodily injury to others.