



# ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Philip Benante, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools**

144 Todd Hill Road • LaGrangeville, NY 12540

Phone: 845-486-4460 • Fax: 845-350-4087

September 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The purpose of this correspondence is to advise you of your rights regarding your child's school records. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to educational records. These rights are:

*(1) The right to inspect and review your child's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.*

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal 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 your child's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.*

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write to the principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school 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 their right to a hearing.

*(3) The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in your child'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 Arlington Central School 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 Board of Education; a person, company or another school or school

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district with whom Arlington Central School District has or may contract for outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, insurance company, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing their tasks.

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

Upon request, the Arlington Central School District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

*(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Arlington Central School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. Complaints can be filed with:*

Student Privacy Policy Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

In addition, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), requires that the Arlington Central 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 Arlington Central School 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 primary purpose of directory information 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;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs;
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members; and
- District written and electronic publications.

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Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

The Arlington Central School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

In addition, two federal laws require school districts receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories—names, addresses and telephone listings of high school students—unless parents or eligible student have advised the school district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the Arlington Central School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by September 30, 2024. Please address your notice to:

Lisa Castaldo, Ed. D.  
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services  
Arlington Central School District  
144 Todd Hill Road  
LaGrangeville, NY 12540

Any questions regarding student records, or the processes listed in this letter, can be directed to either your child's building principal or Lisa Castaldo, Ed. D. (845-486-4460 x20121).

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Sincerely,

Philip Benante, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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