



FERPA

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

College in the Schools students are entering into an exciting new phase of adult responsibilities and privileges. This phase comes with some federal and state data privacy protection that separates the role of parents from the student.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA requires that specific information related to a student's educational records may not be shared with anyone (including parents) other than the student. The law does not consider age, so even if you are under the age of 18, the privacy laws shall apply. Faculty or staff may not discuss private matters or grades with a student's parents or guardian unless the student chooses to sign the written authorization.

Unless students complete the *Authorization to Release Student Information* form, your educational records may not be shared. A copy of our authorization form is available on the [Ridgewater website](#).

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