

# TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

## Administrative Regulation

Students

AR 5125

Student Records; Confidentiality

### Student Records; Confidentiality

#### Definitions

*Student* means any individual who is or has been in attendance at the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) schools and regarding whom TCOE maintains student records. (34 CFR 99.3)

*Attendance* includes, but is not limited to, attendance in person or by paper correspondence, videoconference, satellite, Internet, or other electronic information and telecommunication technologies for students who are not physically present in the classroom, and the period during which a person is working under a work-study program. (34 CFR 99.3)

*Parent/guardian* means a natural parent, an adoptive parent, legal guardian, surrogate parent, or foster parent. (Education Code 49061, 56050, 56055)

*Student records* are any items of information (in handwriting, print, tape, film, computer, or other medium) gathered within or outside TCOE that are directly related to an identifiable student and maintained by TCOE, required to be maintained by an employee in the performance of the employee's duties, or maintained by a party acting for TCOE. Any information maintained for the purpose of second-party review is considered a student record. Student records include the student's health record. (Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

Student records do not include: (Education Code 49061, 49062; 34 CFR 99.3)

1. Directory information
2. Informal notes compiled by a school officer or employee which remain in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute employee
3. Records of the law enforcement unit of TCOE, subject to 34 CFR 99.8
4. Records created or received by TCOE after an individual is no longer a student and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student
5. Grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by a teacher

*Adult student* is a person who is or was enrolled in school and who is at least 18 years of age. (5 CCR 430)

*Legitimate educational interest* is an interest held by any school official, employee, contractor, or consultant whose official duties, responsibilities, or contractual obligations to TCOE, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require access to information contained in student records.

*School officials* and employees are officials or employees, including teachers, whose duties and responsibilities at TCOE, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require access to student records. (34 CFR 99.31)

*Mandatory permanent student records* are those records which are maintained in perpetuity and which schools have been directed to compile by state law, regulation, or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

*Mandatory interim student records* are those records which the schools are directed to compile and maintain for specified periods of time and are then destroyed in accordance with state law, regulation, or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

*Permitted student records* are those records having clear importance only to the current educational process of the student. (5 CCR 430)

*Disclosure* means to permit access to, or the release, transfer, or other communication of, personally identifiable information contained in student records to any party, except the party that provided or created the record, by any means including oral, written, or electronic. (34 CFR 99.3)

*Access* means a personal inspection and review of a record, an accurate copy of a record, or receipt of an accurate copy of a record, an oral description or communication of a record, and a request to release a copy of any record. (Education Code 49061)

*Personally identifiable* information includes, but is not limited to: (34 CFR 99.3)

1. The student's name
2. The name of the student's parent/guardian or other family members
3. The address of the student or student's family
4. A personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record (e.g., fingerprints, retina and iris patterns, voiceprints, DNA sequence, facial characteristics, and handwriting)
5. Other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name
6. Other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty
7. Information requested by a person who the county office reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the student record relates

*Contractor or consultant* is anyone with a formal written agreement or contract with TCOE regarding the provision of services or functions outsourced by TCOE. Contractor or consultant shall not include a

volunteer or other party. (Education Code 49076)

*Custodian of records* is the employee responsible for the security of student records maintained by TCOE and for devising procedures for assuring that access to such records is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

*County placing agency* means the county social service department or county probation department. (Education Code 49061)

## **Retention and Destruction of Student Records**

All anecdotal information and assessment reports maintained as student records shall be dated and signed by the individual who originated the data. (5 CCR 431)

The following mandatory permanent student records shall be kept indefinitely: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Legal name of student
2. Date and place of birth and method of verifying birth date
3. Sex of student
4. Name and address of parent/guardian of minor student
  - a. Address of minor student if different from the above
  - b. Annual verification of parent/guardian's name and address and student's residence
5. Entrance and departure dates of each school year and for any summer session or other extra session
6. Subjects taken during each year, half-year, summer session, or quarter, and marks or credits given towards graduation
7. Verification of or exemption from required immunizations
8. Date of high school graduation or equivalent

Unless forwarded to another district, Mandatory Interim Student Records may be destroyed three (3) years after determining that their usefulness has ceased or that the student has left the TCOE schools/classes. These records include: (Education Code 48918, 51747; 5 CCR 432, 437, 16027)

1. Expulsion orders and the causes therefor
2. A log identifying persons or organizations who request or receive information from the student record
3. Health information, including verification or waiver of the health screening for school entry
4. Information on participation in special education programs, including required tests, case studies, authorizations, and actions necessary to establish eligibility for admission or discharge
5. Language training records
6. Progress slips/notices required by Education Code 49066 and 49067
7. Parental restrictions/stipulations regarding access to directory information
8. Parent/guardian or adult student rejoinders to challenged records and to disciplinary action
9. Parent/guardian authorization or prohibition of student participation in specific programs
10. Results of standardized tests administered within the past three years
11. Written findings resulting from an evaluation conducted after a specified number of missed assignments to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study

Permitted Student Records may be destroyed six (6) months after the student completes or withdraws from the educational program and their usefulness ceases, including: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Objective counselor and/or teacher ratings
2. Standardized test results older than three years
3. Routine disciplinary data
4. Verified reports of relevant behavioral patterns

5. All disciplinary notices
6. Supplementary attendance records

Records shall be destroyed in a way that guarantees they will not be viewed by the public. (5 CCR 437)

### **Process for Providing Access to Records**

Student records shall be maintained in a central file at the school attended by the student or, when records are maintained at different locations, a notation shall be placed in the central file indicating where other records may be found. Parents/guardians and adult students shall be notified of the location of student records if not centrally located. (Education Code 49069.7; 5 CCR 433)

The custodian of records shall be responsible for the security of student records and shall assure that access is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

The custodian of records shall develop reasonable methods, including physical, technological, and administrative policy controls, to ensure that school officials and employees obtain access to only those student records in which they have legitimate educational interests. (34 CFR 99.31)

To inspect, review, or obtain copies of student records, authorized persons shall submit a request to the custodian of records. Prior to granting the request, the custodian of records shall authenticate the individual's identity. For any individual granted access based on a legitimate educational interest, the request shall specify the interest involved. This includes any TCOE or district personnel and third-party contractors. Legitimate educational interests shall be authenticated by the staff member's supervisor (or County Superintendent's designee). The individual requesting access to student records in student information systems (including but not limited to CALPADS) will protect this access consistent with the law including protecting login credentials, not sharing login credentials, locking his/her device when not in use and reporting data breaches to supervisors.

When required by law, a student's parent/guardian or an adult student shall provide written, signed, and dated consent before TCOE discloses the student record. Such consent may be given through electronic means in those cases where it can be authenticated. TCOE's consent form shall specify the records that may be disclosed, state the purpose of the disclosure, and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. Upon request by the parent/guardian or adult student, TCOE shall provide a copy of the records disclosed. (34 CFR 99.30)

If the parent/guardian or adult student refuses to provide written consent for the release of student information, the County Superintendent or designee shall not release the information, unless it is otherwise subject to release based on a court order or a lawful subpoena.

Within five business days following the date of request, the authorized person shall be granted access to inspect, review, and obtain copies of student records during regular school hours. (Education Code 49069.7)

Qualified Certificated personnel will be available to interpret records when requested. (Education Code 49069.7)

The custodian of records or the County Superintendent or designee shall prevent the alteration, damage, or loss of records during inspection. (5 CCR 435)

## **Access Log**

A log shall be maintained for each student's record, which lists all persons, agencies or organizations requesting or receiving information from the record and the legitimate educational interest of the requester. (Education Code 49064)

In every instance of inspection by persons who do not have assigned educational responsibility, the custodian of records shall make an entry in the log indicating the record inspected, the name of the person granted access, the reason access was granted, and the time and circumstances of inspection. (5 CCR 435)

The custodian of records shall also make an entry in the log regarding any request for record(s) that was denied and the reason for the denial.

The log shall include requests for access to records by:

1. Parents/guardians or adult students.
2. Students sixteen (16) years of age or older who have completed the tenth grade.
3. Parties obtaining TCOE-approved directory information.
4. Parties who provide written parental consent. In this case, the consent notice shall be filed with the record pursuant to Education Code 49075.
5. TCOE officials or employees who have legitimate educational interest.
6. Law enforcement personnel seeking to enforce immigration laws

The log shall be open to inspection only by the parent/guardian, adult student, dependent adult student, the custodian of records, and certain state/federal officials. (Education Code 49064; 5 CCR 432)

## **Persons Granted Absolute Access**

In accordance with law, absolute access to any student records shall be granted to:

1. Parents/guardians of students younger than age 18, including the parent who is not the student's custodial parent (Education Code 49069.7; Family Code 3025)
2. An Adult student, or a student under the age of 18 years who attends a postsecondary institution, in which case the student alone shall exercise rights related to the student's records and grant consent for the release of records (34 CFR 99.3, 99.5)
3. Parents/guardians of an adult student with disabilities who is age 18 years or older and has been declared incompetent under state law (Education Code 56041.5)

## **Access for Limited Purpose/Legitimate Educational Interest**

The following persons or agencies shall have access to those particular records which are relevant to the legitimate educational interests of the requester or other legally authorized purpose:

1. Parents/guardians of a student age 18 or older who is a dependent child as defined in 26 USC 152. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
2. Students 16 or older or who have completed the tenth grade. (Education Code 49076)

3. School officials and employees, consistent with the definition provided in the section "Definitions" above (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
4. School attendance and review board (SARB) members appointed pursuant to Education Code 48321 who are authorized representatives of TCOE and any volunteer aide age 18 or older who has been investigated, selected, and trained by the SARB to provide follow-up services to a referred student . (Education Code 49076)
5. Officials or employees of other public schools, school systems, or postsecondary institutions where the student intends or is directed to enroll, including local, county, or state correctional facilities where educational programs leading to high school graduation are provided, or where the student is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
6. Federal, State and local officials, as needed for an audit or evaluation of, or compliance with, a state or federally funded education program and in accordance with a written agreement developed pursuant to 34 CFR 99.35 (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.3, 99.31, 99.35)
7. Any district attorney who is participating in a truancy mediation program or in the presentation of evidence in a truancy petition. (Education Code 49076)
8. A district attorney's office for consideration against a parent/guardian for failure to comply with the Compulsory Education Law. (Education Code 49076)
9. Any probation officer, district attorney, or counsel of record for a student who is a minor for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation or an investigation in regard to declaring the minor a ward of the court or involving a violation of a condition of probation, subject to evidentiary rules specified in Welfare and Institutions Code 701. (Education Code 49076)

When disclosing records for these purposes, the County Superintendent or designee shall obtain written certification from the recipient of the records that the information will not be disclosed to another party without prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or the holder of the student's educational rights, unless specifically authorized by state or federal law. (Education Code 49076)

10. Unless the annual parent/guardian notification issued pursuant to Education Code 48980 includes a statement that TCOE may disclose students' personally identifiable information to officials of another school, school system, or postsecondary institution where the student seeks or intends to enroll, the County Superintendent or designee shall, when such a disclosure is made, make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian or adult student at the last known address, provide a copy of the record that is disclosed, and give the parent/guardian or adult student an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the record. (34 CFR 99.34)
11. The Student Aid Commission, to provide the grade point average (GPA) of all TCOE students in grade 12 and, when required, verification of high school graduation or its equivalent of all students who graduated in the prior academic year, for use in the Cal Grant postsecondary financial aid program. *However, such information shall not be submitted when students opt out or are permitted by the rules of the Student Aid Commission to provide test scores in lieu of the GPA.* (Education Code 69432.9, 69432.92)

No later than January 1 each year, the County Superintendent or designee shall notify each student in grade 11, and the student's parents/guardians if the student is under age 18 years, that the student's GPA will be forwarded to the Student Aid Commission by October 1 unless the student opts out within a period of time specified in the notice, which shall not be less than 30 days. (Education Code 69432.9)

Students' social security numbers shall not be included in the submitted information unless the Student Aid Commission deems it necessary to complete the financial aid application and the Superintendent or designee obtains permission from the student's parent/guardian, or from the adult student, to submit the social security number. (Education Code 69432.9)

12. Any county placing agency acting as an authorized representative of a state or local educational agency which is required to audit or evaluate a state or federally supported education program pursuant to item #11 above (Education Code 49076)
13. Any person, agency, or organization authorized in compliance with a court order or lawfully issued subpoena (Education Code 49077; 5 CCR 435; 34 CFR 99.31)

Unless otherwise instructed by the court, the County Superintendent or designee shall, prior to disclosing a record pursuant to a court order or subpoena, give the parent/guardian or adult student at least three days' notice of the name of the requesting agency and the specific record requested, if lawfully possible within the requirements of the judicial order. (Education Code 49077; 5 CCR 435; 34 CFR 99.31)

14. Any judge or probation officer for the purpose of conducting a truancy mediation program for a student or for the purpose of presenting evidence in a truancy petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 681 (Education Code 49076)

In such cases, the judge or probation officer shall certify in writing to the County Superintendent or designee that the information will be used only for truancy purposes. Upon releasing student information to a judge or probation officer, the County Superintendent or designee shall inform, or provide written notification to, the student's parent/guardian within 24 hours. (Education Code 49076)

15. A foster family agency with jurisdiction over a currently enrolled or former student; short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a student; or a caregiver who has direct responsibility for the care of a student, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or nonrelated extended family member, or a resource family, as defined (Education Code 49076)

Such individuals shall have access to the student's current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, online communication on platforms established by schools for students and parents/guardians, and any individualized education program or Section 504 plan developed and maintained by TCOE (Education Code 49069.3)

16. A student age 14 years or older who is both a homeless student and an unaccompanied minor as defined in 42 USC 11434a (Education Code 49076)

17. An individual who completes items #1-4 of the caregiver's authorization affidavit pursuant to Family Code 6552 and signs the affidavit for the purpose of enrolling a minor in school (Education Code 49076)
18. A caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency or tribal organization that has legal responsibility in accordance with state or tribal law for the care and protection of a student, provided that the individual is authorized by the agency or organization to receive the records and the information requested is directly related to assistance to address the student's educational needs (Education Code 49076; 20 USC 1232(g))
19. Appropriate law enforcement authorities, in circumstances where Education Code 48902 requires that TCOE provide special education and disciplinary records of a student with disabilities who is suspended or expelled for committing an act violating Penal Code 245 (Education Code 48902, 49076)

When disclosing such records, the County Superintendent or designee shall obtain written certification by the recipient of the records as described in item #9 above. (Education Code 49076)

20. Designated peace officers or law enforcement agencies in cases where TCOE is authorized by law to assist law enforcement in investigations of suspected criminal conduct or kidnapping and a written parental consent, lawfully issued subpoena, or court order is submitted to TCOE, or information is provided to it indicating that an emergency exists in which the student's information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals (Education Code 49076.5)

In such cases, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide information about the identity and location of the student as it relates to the transfer of that student's records to another public school district in California or any other state or to a California private school. (Education Code 49076.5)

When disclosing records for the above purposes, the County Superintendent or designee shall obtain the necessary documentation to verify that the person, agency, or organization is a person, agency, or organization that is permitted to receive such records.

Any person, agency, or organization granted access is prohibited from releasing information to another person, agency, or organization without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student unless specifically allowed by state law or the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (Education Code 49076)

In addition, the parent/guardian or adult student may provide written consent for access to be granted to persons, agencies, or organizations not afforded access rights by law. The written consent shall specify the records to be released and the party or parties to whom they may be released. (Education Code 49061, 49075)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student may consent to the release of records to others. Either parent/guardian may grant consent if both parents/guardians notify TCOE, in writing, that such an agreement has been made. (Education Code 49061)

## Discretionary Access

At the discretion of the County Superintendent or designee, information may be released from a student's records to the following:

1. Appropriate persons, including parents/guardians of a student, in an emergency if the health and safety of the student or other persons are at stake. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.32, 99.36)

When releasing information to any such appropriate person, the County Superintendent or designee shall record information about the threat to the health or safety of the student or any other person that formed the basis for the disclosure and the person(s) to whom the disclosure was made. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.32)

Unless it would further endanger the health or safety of the student or other persons, the County Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian or adult student within one week of the disclosure that the disclosure was made, of the articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of the student or other individuals that formed the basis for the disclosure, and of the parties to whom the disclosure was made.

2. Agencies or organizations in connection with student's application for or receipt of financial aid, provided that information permitting the personal identification of a student or the student's parents/guardians for these purposes is disclosed only as may be necessary to determine the eligibility of the student for financial aid, determine the amount of financial aid, determine the conditions which will be imposed regarding the financial aid, or enforce the terms or conditions of the financial aid.(Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
3. Accrediting associations in order to carry out their accrediting functions. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
4. Under the conditions specified in Education Code 49076 and 34 CFR 99.31, organizations conducting studies on behalf of educational institutions or agencies for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction, provided that: (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
  - a. The study is conducted in a manner that does not permit personal identification of students or parents/guardians by individuals other than representatives of the organization who have legitimate interests in the information.
  - b. The information is destroyed when no longer needed for the purposes for which the study is conducted.
  - c. TCOE enters into a written agreement with the organization that complies with 34 CFR 99.31.
5. Officials and employees of private schools or school systems where the student is enrolled or intends to enroll, subject to parent's/guardian's rights in Education Code 49068 and in compliance with 34 CFR 99.34 (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.34)

6. Local health departments operating countywide or regional immunization information and reminder systems and the California Department of Public Health, unless the parent/guardian has requested that no disclosures of this type be made (Health and Safety Code 120440)
7. Contractors and consultants having a legitimate educational interest based on services or functions which have been outsourced to them through a formal written agreement or contract with TCOE, excluding volunteers or other parties (Education Code 49076)
8. County elections officials for the purpose of identifying students eligible to register to vote or offering such students an opportunity to register, subject to the limits set by 34 CFR 99.37 and under the condition that any information provided on this basis shall not be used for any other purpose or transferred to any other person or agency (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.37)

When disclosing records for the above purposes, the County Superintendent or designee shall obtain the necessary documentation to verify that the person, agency, or organization is a person, agency, or organization that is permitted to receive such records.

Any person, agency, or organization granted access is prohibited from releasing information to another person, agency, or organization without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student unless specifically allowed by state law or the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (Education Code 49076)

### **Notification of Parents/Guardians**

Upon any student's initial enrollment and at the beginning of each school year thereafter, the County Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians and eligible students, in writing, of their rights related to student records. Insofar as practicable, these notices shall be written in the student's home language. TCOE shall effectively notify parents/guardians or eligible students with disabilities. (Education Code 48985, 49063; 34 CFR 99.7)

The notice shall include: (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7, 99.34)

1. The types of student records kept by TCOE and the information contained therein.
2. The right to inspect and review student records and the procedures for doing so.
3. The title(s) of the official(s) responsible for maintaining each type of record.
4. The location of the log identifying those who request information from the records.
5. TCOE criteria for defining "school officials and employees" and for determining "legitimate educational interest."
6. TCOE policies for reviewing and expunging student records.
7. The right to challenge and the procedures for challenging the content of student records that the parent/guardian or student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.
8. The cost, if any, charged for duplicating copies of records.

9. The categories of information defined as directory information pursuant to Education Code 49073.
10. Any other rights and requirements set forth in Education Code 49060- 49085, and the right of parents/guardians to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by TCOE to comply with 20 USC 1232g
11. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records except when disclosure without consent is authorized by law
12. Availability of the curriculum prospectus developed pursuant to Education Code 49091.14 containing the titles, descriptions, and instructional aims of every course offered by the school
13. A statement that TCOE forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that request the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment

In addition, the annual parental notification shall include a statement that a student's citizenship status, immigration status, place of birth, or any other information indicating national origin will not be released without parental consent or a court order.

### **Duplication of Student Records**

To provide copies of any student record, TCOE may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed the actual cost of providing the copies. The custodian of records shall set the fee and update the amount yearly if actual costs change.

No charge shall be made for furnishing up to two transcripts or up to two verifications of various records for any former student. No charge shall be made to locate or retrieve any student record. (Education Code 49065)

### **Transfer of Student Records**

When a student transfers to a TCOE school/program from any other school district or a private school, the County Superintendent or designee shall inform the student's parent/guardian of rights regarding student records, including a parent/guardian's right to review, challenge, and receive a copy of student records. (Education Code 49068; 5 CCR 438)

When a student transfers to a TCOE school/program from another district, the County Superintendent or designee shall request that the student's previous district provide any records, either maintained by that district in the ordinary course of business or received from a law enforcement agency, regarding acts committed by the transferring student that resulted in the student's suspension or expulsion. (Education Code 48201)

When a student transfers from a TCOE school/program to another school district or to a private school, the County Superintendent or designee shall forward a copy of the student's mandatory permanent records within 10 school days of TCOE's receipt of the request for the student's records. The original or a copy shall be retained permanently by TCOE.

Mandatory interim records shall also be sent upon request to California public school districts. Mandatory interim records may also be sent to out-of-state or private schools requesting them.

Permitted student records may be sent to any public school district or private school. (Education Code 48918, 49068; 5 CCR 438)

Upon receiving a request from a county placing agency to transfer a student in foster care out of a TCOE school, the County Superintendent or designee shall transfer the student's records to the next educational placement within two business days. (Education Code 49069.5)

All student records shall be updated before they are transferred. (5 CCR 438)

Student records shall not be withheld from the requesting district because of any charges or fees owed by the student or parent/guardian. (5 CCR 438) If TCOE has been withholding grades, diploma, or a transcript from the student because of damage or loss of school property, this information shall be forwarded to the new school along with the student's record. TCOE shall also notify the parent/guardian in writing that the decision to withhold grades and transcript will be enforced by the new school. (Education Code 48904.3)

TCOE shall withhold grades, diploma and transcripts from any student transferring into the classes/programs operated by TCOE whose misconduct caused a previous district to withhold them. When informed by the previous district that lawful compensation has been made, TCOE shall release these documents. (Education Code 48904.3)

### **Challenging Content of Student Records**

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of a student or a student who is 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education may challenge the content of a record or offer a written response to a record. (Education Code 49061)

No addition or change shall be made to a student's record after high school graduation or permanent departure, other than routine updating, unless required by law or with prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student. (Education Code 49070; 5 CCR 437)

The parent/guardian may file with the County Superintendent a written request to correct or remove from his/her child's records any information concerning the child which is alleged to be:

1. Inaccurate.
2. An unsubstantiated personal conclusion or inference.
3. A conclusion or inference outside of the observer's area of competence.
4. Not based on the personal observation of a named person, with the time and place of the observation noted.
5. Misleading.
6. In violation of the privacy or other rights of the pupil. (Education Code 49070)

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of request, the County Superintendent or designee shall meet with the parent/guardian and with the certificated employee (if still employed) who recorded the information in

question. The County Superintendent shall then sustain or deny the allegations. If the allegations are sustained, the County Superintendent shall order the correction or removal and destruction of the information. (Education Code 49070)

If the County Superintendent denies any or all of the allegations, the parent/guardian may, within thirty (30) days of the refusal, appeal the decision in writing to the County Board. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of written appeal, the County Board shall, in closed session meet with the parent/guardian and the certificated employee (if still employed) who recorded the information in question. The County Board shall then decide whether or not to sustain or deny the allegations. If the County Board sustains any or all of the allegations, it shall order the County Superintendent to immediately correct or remove and destroy the information from the student's records and inform the parent or guardian in writing. The decision of the County Board shall be final. (Education Code 49070)

The County Board and the County Superintendent shall not order a student's grade to be changed unless the teacher who gave that grade is, to the extent practicable, given the opportunity to state orally, in writing, or both, the reasons for which the grade was given and is, to the extent practicable, included in all discussions relating to the changing of the grade. (Education Code 49066)

Records of these administrative proceedings shall be maintained in a confidential manner and shall be destroyed one year after the decision of the County Board, unless the parent/guardian initiates legal proceedings relative to the disputed information within the prescribed period.

If the County Superintendent or County Board sustains the parent/guardian's request to change the name, gender, or both, of a student or former student, TCOE shall add a new document to the student's or former student's record that includes all of the following information:

- a. The date of the request.
- b. The date the requested records were corrected.
- c. A list of the records that the parent/guardian of the student or former student requested to be corrected.
- d. The type of documentation, if any, provided by the parent/guardian of the student or former student to demonstrate a legal change to the student's or former student's name, gender, or both. The parent/guardian of the student or former student is not required to provide documentation of a legal change to the student's or former student's name, gender, or both.
- e. The name of the employee that completed the request.
- f. The corrected and former names, genders, or both, of the student or former student.

The document generated regarding a parent/guardian's request to change a student's or former student's name, gender, or both, shall be indefinitely maintained in a confidential manner. (Education Code 49070)

If the final decision of the County Board is unfavorable to the parent/guardian, or if the parent/guardian accepts an unfavorable decision by the County Superintendent, the parent/guardian shall have the right to submit a written statement of objections. This statement shall become a part of the student's record until such time as the information objected to is corrected or removed. (Education Code 49070)

The County Superintendent has the option of appointing a hearing panel to assist in the decision-making. The hearing panel may be used at the discretion of the County Superintendent, provided that the parent/guardian consents to releasing record information to panel members. (Education Code 49071)

## **Release of Directory Information**

Directory information means information contained in a student record that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Such student information includes: student's name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, major field of study, participation record in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous school attended. (Education Code 49061; 20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR 99.3)

Directory information does not include a student's social security number or student identification number. However, for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, directory information may include a student identification number, user identification, or other personal identifier used by the student provided that the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with a personal identification number, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. (34 CFR 99.3)

Directory information also does not include a student's citizenship status, immigration status, place of birth, or any other information indicating national origin.

At the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians shall be notified as to the categories of directory information may be released regarding any student or former student. The notification shall also inform parents/guardians of their right to refuse to let the district designate any or all types of information as directory information, how to refuse release, and the period of time within which a parent/guardian must notify the district in writing that he/she does not want a certain category of information designated as directory information. (Education Code 49063, 49073; 20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR 99.37)

In addition, the annual parental notification shall include a statement that directory information does not include citizenship status, immigration status, place of birth, or any other information indicating national origin and that TCOE will not release such information without parental consent or a court order.

The County Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians that they may request that TCOE not release the name, address, and telephone number of their child to military recruiters, employers, or institutions of higher education without prior written consent. (20 USC 7908)

No directory information of a student identified as a homeless child or youth as defined in 42 USC 11434a shall be released, unless the parent/guardian, or the student if he/she is 18 years or older, has provided written consent that directory information may be released. For any other student, directory information shall not be released if his/her parent/guardian notifies TCOE in writing that such information not be disclosed without the parent/guardian's prior consent. (Education Code 49073; 20 USC 1232g, 7908)

For a former student, TCOE shall continue to honor any valid request to opt out of the disclosure of directory information made while the student was in attendance at TCOE, unless the opt-out request has been rescinded. (34 CFR 99.37)

## **De-identification of Records**

When authorized by law for any program audit, educational research, or other purpose, the County Superintendent or designee may release information from a student record without prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student after the removal of all personally identifiable information. Prior to releasing such information, the County Superintendent or designee shall make a reasonable determination

that the student's identity is not personally identifiable, whether through single or multiple releases and taking into account other reasonably available information. (Education Code 49074, 49076; 20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR 99.31)

### **Student Records from Social Media**

For the purpose of gathering and maintaining records of students' social media activity, the Superintendent or designee shall: (Education Code 49073.6)

1. Gather or maintain only information that pertains directly to school safety or student safety
2. Provide a student with access to any information that TCOE obtained from the student's social media activity and an opportunity to correct or delete such information
3. Destroy information gathered from social media and maintained in student records within one year after a student turns 18 years of age or within one year after the student is no longer enrolled in TCOE, whichever occurs first
4. Notify each parent/guardian that the student's information is being gathered from social media and that any information maintained in the student's records shall be destroyed as provided in item #3 above. The notification shall also include, but is not limited to, an explanation of the process by which a student or the student's parent/guardian may access the student's records for examination of the information gathered or maintained and the process by which removal of the information may be requested or corrections to the information may be made. The notification may be provided as part of the annual parental notification required pursuant to Education Code 48980.
5. If TCOE contracts with a third party to gather information on a student from social media, ensure that the contract:
  - a. Prohibits the third party from using the information for purposes other than those specified in the contract or from selling or sharing the information with any person or entity other than TCOE, the student, or the student's parent/guardian
  - b. Requires the third party to destroy the information immediately upon satisfying the terms of the contract, or when TCOE notifies the third party that the student has turned 18 years of age or is no longer enrolled in TCOE, whichever occurs first

### **Updating Name and/or Gender of Former Students**

When a former student submits a state-issued driver's license, birth certificate, passport, social security card, court order, or other government-issued documentation demonstrating that the former student's legal name and/or gender has changed, TCOE shall update the former student's records to include the updated legal name and/or gender. Upon request by the former student, TCOE shall reissue any documents

conferred upon the former student, including, but not limited to, a transcript, a high school diploma, a high school equivalency certificate, or other similar documents. (Education Code 49062.5)

If the former student's name or gender is changed and the requested records are reissued, a new document shall be added to the former student's file that includes all of the following information: (Education Code 49062.5)

1. The date of the request
2. The date the requested records were reissued to the former student
3. A list of the records that were requested by and reissued to the former student
4. The type of documentation, if any, provided by the former student to demonstrate a legal change to the student's name and/or gender
5. The name of the employee who completed the request
6. The current and former names and/or genders of the student

Any former student who submits a request to change the legal name and/or gender on the student's records but is unable to provide any government-issued documentation demonstrating the legal name or gender change, may request a name or gender change through the process described in Education Code 49070. (Education Code 49062.5)

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Tulare County Superintendent of Schools  
Visalia, California