FERPA NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a Federal law that is administered by the Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) and protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA applies to all educational agencies and institutions that receive funding under any program administered by the DOE.

At the K-12 school level, FERPA provides parents with the right to inspect and review their children’s education records, the right to seek to amend information in the records they believe to be inaccurate, misleading, or an invasion of privacy, and the right to consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from their children's education records.

**However, when a student turns 18 years old or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer to the student. However, FERPA does provide ways in which an institution can share education records with the parent.**

Stockton requests that the student provide written consent in order to release information to a parent (or other named third party). The student may designate a parent or other person as a proxy, through Stockton’s online Proxy Management system in goStockton on the Student Services tab. Authorizing a proxy through goStockton will serve as written consent from the student. Once the student authorizes a proxy, an email will be sent to the proxy with instructions to set up their access to view account information selected by the student.

Under FERPA, institutions may also release information to parents without the consent of the student if the student is a dependent for tax purposes under the IRS rules. The parent will need to submit a copy of his/her most recent federal tax records to the Office of the Registrar.

Information may also be released by the college without the student’s consent in the following situations:

**Alcohol and Controlled Substances:**

FERPA permits postsecondary institutions to notify parents (of students under the age of 21) when the student has violated any law or policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

**Health or Safety Emergencies:**

A post-secondary institution is permitted to disclose information from education records to a parent if a health or safety emergency involves their son or daughter.

**Law Enforcement Unit Records:**

Additionally, under FERPA, postsecondary institutions may disclose information from "law enforcement unit records" to anyone - including parents or federal, State, or local law enforcement authorities - without the consent of the eligible student. Many colleges and universities have their own campus security units. Records created and maintained by these units for law enforcement purposes are exempt from the privacy restrictions of FERPA and can be shared with anyone.
HIPPA and Student Records:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a law passed by Congress intended to establish transaction, security, privacy, and other standards to address concerns about the electronic exchange of health information. However, the HIPAA Privacy Rule excludes from its coverage those records that are protected by FERPA at school districts and postsecondary institutions that provide health or medical services to students. This is because Congress specifically addressed how education records should be protected under FERPA. For this reason, records that are protected by FERPA are not subject to the HIPAA Privacy Rule and may be shared with parents under the circumstances described above.

Additional Information:

More information can be viewed from the Registrar’s Home Page under FERPA or you may review the FERPA regulations and other information on the following website: