

Southwest Region School District

September, 2022

2022-2023 Annual Notifications

It is time for the annual notifications to all of the parents and guardians of the incredible students in Southwest Region School District. The District is looking forward to building stronger relationships with each of you through increased communication and through seeking feedback from you so educational programs can continue to be improved.

Included in this newsletter are the annual notifications to parents. There are a number of topics for which it is important to receive information about so that you are aware of the systems and process in place to support your child(ren).

There is quite a bit of information for parents on the district website. This information is available online at www.swrsd.org. Simply click on the Parent Information tab to access this information. Each school also has a Title I Schoolwide plan that includes a needs assessment, goals for the school year, and plans to address those goals. These plans can also be found online at the district website under the Parent Information tab.

You are encouraged to participate in the development of the school wide plan and to provide feedback about district and school programs. You can contact your local principal or Jon Clouse (contact information at the end of the letter).

The annual school specific accountability letter that outlines the index scores for each school along with the school level achievement and growth data will be delayed due to changes in the state assessment. Expect to get the accountability letter in December or January.



Other Important Information

Request Teacher and/or Paraprofessional Qualifications



You have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s). If you request this information, the district or school will provide you with the information state licensing including grade levels, subject areas, type of license obtained and the specific content areas for which a teacher is licensed. You also have the right to request qualification information on paraprofessionals that are providing services to your child. Please contact the school if you would like to request this information.

Schoolwide Title I Program Eligibility



All of our schools qualify to receive federal funds under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act, specifically Title I, Part A of the act. Schoolwide Title I programs allow the use of funds under Title I, together with other federal and state funds, in order to improve educational programs in the school. Please contact your local school or the district if you have any question or would like additional information or if you'd like to be involved in the schoolwide planning process.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)



Students have rights regarding district surveys, collection and use of student information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations, including:

1. Consent before students are required to complete a survey that concerns one or more of the protected areas: political affiliations, mental or psychological problems, sex behavior or attitudes, critical appraisals of others of close family relationships, legally recognized privileged relationships, religious practices or affiliations, income other than is required by law to determine program eligibility, and illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
2. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of any other protected information survey, regardless of funding; any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening as a condition of attendance administered by the school or its agent not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Inspect, upon request and before administration or use, protected information surveys of students; instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution purposes; and instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

When a student reaches the age of 18 or is an emancipated minor under State law, the parents' rights transfer to the student.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that SWRSD, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, SWRSD may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the **SWRSD** to the contrary in accordance with SWRSD procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the SWRSD to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

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 or providing educational subscriptions.

If you do not want SWRSD to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the SWRSD in writing by November 15th, 2019. SWRSD has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- 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
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems
- A student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge.



FERPA Rights

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. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student'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 [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official 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 the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal [or appropriate official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. 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 the right to a hearing.
3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information 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 School 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 School has outsourced services or functions that it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, 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 his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school 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
400 Maryland Avenue, SW



Disclosure of Student Records

Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district or institution of post-secondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.



By September 15 of each year, the district will provide to the University of Alaska a list of names and addresses of students in the graduating class who meet scholarship eligibility requirements for each scholarship program. Release of a student's name to the University of Alaska will not be made if the parent or eligible student objects. An objection should be made in writing to the school principal.

By July 15 of each year, the district will transmit to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development an electronic version of each graduating student's permanent record that describes the student's eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.

By January 15 and July 15 of each year, the district will provide to the Alaska Military Youth Academy, a report containing the name, address, and dates of attendance of prior students ages 15 through 18 who appear no longer enrolled in any educational institution and who have not received a diploma or GED. Release of a student's information to the Alaska Military Youth Academy will not be made if the parent or eligible student objects. An objection should be made in writing to the school principal or through the parent portal in PowerSchool.

Disclosure of Assessment information to Parents/Guardians

The school will provide parents with information about your child(ren)'s level of achievement on the most recent state academic assessment. You have the right to request information regarding their parental right to opt the child out of assessments, and information on each assessment required by the State. For more information about the required assessments visit - <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/requiredassessments>

Have a Great Year!

We look forward to your involvement in school activities and your child's education. We also look forward to your attendance at school meetings to provide input. You are an important partner in our effort to provide the best education possible for your child. Thank you for your interest and involvement in your child's education.

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