

AP 5040 Student Records, Directory Information, and Privacy

Reference: ***Education Code Sections 66093.3 and 76200 et seq.; Title 5 Sections 54600 et seq. and 59410; Civil Code Sections 1788.90 et seq. and 1798.85; 20 U.S. Code Section 1232 g (j), (U.S. Patriot Act); ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.C.8***

Date Issued: October 8, 2012

Revised: ~~February 16, 2021~~

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (District) procedures will ensure that a cumulative record of enrollment, scholarship, and educational progress shall be kept for each student. In accordance with federal and state laws, the Chancellor shall implement procedures to maintain the privacy of student records.

The Chancellor shall also implement security measures for student records that ensure no person may obtain access to student records, including student grade records without proper authorization. These measures shall be installed as part of any computerized grade data storage system.

Student records are any item of administrative information directly related to an identifiable student maintained by the District.

The following records are administrative records that are expressly exempted from the right to review and inspection:

- Financial records of parents of the student relating to application for financial aid and scholarships.
- Appropriate records of instructional supervisory and/or administrative personnel that are in their sole possession and are not accessible or revealed to any other person.
- Human Resource Information pertaining to persons employed by the District.

Student Access to Records:

Students presently or previously enrolled have the right to access their individual student records maintained by the District. Students shall be granted access within fifteen (15) working days of their initial request.

Collection and Retention of Student Information

The District shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of all school services, including, but not limited to, the gathering of student and family information for the institution's benefits programs.

The Admissions and Records Department shall maintain in writing District policies and procedures for gathering and handling sensitive student information, and appropriate personnel shall receive training regarding those policies and procedures.

The District will provide students and families with annual notice, at the beginning of each school year, of institutional policies for student privacy and the abilities of parents or eligible students to inspect student information.

The District will provide students an opportunity to opt out of disclosure of directory information. Notices must describe the following:

- The kind of information that the school has identified as directory information;
- The eligible student's ability to refuse to let the school designate the information as directory information, which could be disclosed to outside entities;
- The period of time in which the eligible student has to notify the school in writing that he/she/they does not want the information designated as directory information; and
- That opting out by the noted deadline is the student's only way to prevent the release of directory information.

Any sensitive information, such as a student's, parent's, or guardian's SSN, any AB 540 determinations, or citizenship status information collected by the District or disclosed by the student, should be maintained only for as long as necessary.

If the District possesses information that could indicate immigration status or citizenship status, the District shall not consider the acquired information in admissions decisions or access to educational courses or degree programs.

Students may elect not to provide immigration or citizenship status information to the institution, and this election shall not impede admissions or enrollment in educational programs.

The District shall not create a list of student names linked with immigration status.

Public Safety shall not inquire into an individual's immigration status for immigration enforcement purposes.

Public Safety shall not aid any effort to create a registry containing individuals' country of birth or based on any other protected characteristics of victims, witnesses, or suspects of crimes unless required by law for specified purposes.

Release of Student Records:

No instructor, official, employee, or member of the Board of Trustees shall authorize access to student records to any person except under the following circumstances:

Student records shall be released pursuant to a student's written consent or verified electronic consent. No District representative (instructor, official, employee, or Governing Board member) shall release the contents or shall authorize access of a student's record to any member of the public without the prior written consent or verified electronic consent of the student, other than directory information as defined in this

procedure; and information sought pursuant to a federal judicial court order, or lawfully issued subpoena, or as otherwise authorized by applicable federal and state laws. Students have the right to opt out of releasing directory information by contacting the Admissions and Records Office.

- Student records shall be released pursuant to a federal judicial order that has been issued regarding an investigation or prosecution of an offense concerning an investigation or prosecution of terrorism.
- Student records may be released to officials and employees of the District only when they have a legitimate educational interest to inspect the record. A school official or employee has a legitimate educational interest if the official or employee needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her/their professional responsibilities for the colleges. This includes but is not limited to course grades, attendance information, advising information, disciplinary records, financial aid records and housing information. Student records may be released to authorized representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Secretary of Education, an administrative head of an education agency, state education officials, or their respective designees, or the United States Office of Civil Rights, where that information is necessary to audit or evaluate a state or federally supported educational program or pursuant to federal or state law. Exceptions will be made when the collection of personally identifiable information is specifically authorized by federal law, any data collected by those officials shall be protected in a manner that will not permit the personal identification of students or their parents by other than those officials, and any personally identifiable data shall be destroyed when no longer needed for that audit, evaluation, and enforcement of federal legal requirements.
- Student records may be released to officials of other public or private schools or school systems, including local, county or state correctional facilities where education programs are provided, where the student seeks or intends to enroll or is directed to enroll. The release is subject to the conditions in Education Code Section 76225.
- Student records may be released to agencies or organizations in connection with a student's application for, or receipt of, financial aid, provided that information permitting the personal identification of those students may be disclosed only as may be necessary for those purposes as to financial aid, to determine the amount of the financial aid, or conditions that will be imposed regarding financial aid, or to enforce the terms or conditions of financial aid.
- Student records may be released to organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, accrediting organizations, educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering financial aid programs, and improving instruction, if those studies are conducted in such a manner as will not permit the personal identification of students or their parents by persons other than representatives of those organizations and the information will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose for which it is conducted.
- Student records may be released to appropriate persons in connection with an emergency if the knowledge of that information is necessary to

protect the health or safety of a student or other persons, subject to applicable federal or state law. The following information shall be released to the federal military for the purposes of federal military recruitment: student names, addresses, telephone listings, received, prior military experience, or the most recent previous educational institutions enrolled in by the students.

Procedures on obtaining student records are located in the Admissions and Records Office and in the college catalogs.

Access to Student Records for Immigration Enforcement Purposes

The District must obtain a student's written consent before disclosing educational records, unless the information is relevant for a legitimate educational interest or includes directory information only. Neither exception permits disclosing information for immigration enforcement purposes; no student information shall be disclosed for immigration enforcement purposes without a court order or judicial warrant. Without a court order or a judicial warrant, written consent must be signed and dated by the student, or (if the student is a minor) by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), before disclosure of the information, and must specify the records that may be disclosed, the purpose of the disclosure, and the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made.

If desired by the student, the District must provide a copy of the records to be released. The party to whom the information is disclosed may not re-disclose the information to any other party without the prior consent of the student or subsequent court order.

District personnel shall develop a written policy for interactions with immigration authorities seeking to review student records. At minimum, such policies shall include the following information:

- Contact information for the correct person to review and respond to a request for student records.
Dean of Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Grossmont College
Director of Admissions and Records, Cuyamaca College
- Access to sample warrant and subpoena documents that could be used for access onto campus property, or to seize or arrest students or other individuals on campus seeking access to records for immigration enforcement purposes.

In addition to notifying the designated campus official, District personnel shall take the following action steps in response to an officer other than campus police requesting access to student records:

1. Ask for the officer's name, identification number, and agency affiliation;
2. Record or copy this information;
3. Ask for a copy of any warrants;
4. Inform the officer that you are not obstructing his/her/their efforts but that you need to contact a campus administrator or campus counsel for assistance.

Public Safety shall not provide personal information about an individual for immigration enforcement purposes, unless that information is publicly available, or required by a court order or judicial warrant. "Personal information" is defined as any information that

identifies or describes an individual, and includes but is not limited to, a student's physical description, home or work address, telephone number, education, financial matters, medical or employment history, and statements made by, or attributed to, the individual. This restriction does not apply to information regarding the immigration or citizenship status of an individual.

Unless the District is served with a judicial subpoena or court order that by its terms prohibits disclosure to the student, the student must be notified of any judicial order or subpoena before the institution complies with the order in accordance with FERPA.

Charge for Transcripts or Verifications of Student Records:

A student/former student shall be entitled to two free copies of the transcript of his/her/their record or to two free verifications of various student records. Additional copies shall be made available to the student or to an addressee designated by him/her, at the rate of \$3.00 per copy. The additional per-copy fee can be obtained from the Admissions and Records Offices at each of the District college campuses. Students may request special processing of a transcript, which may include additional fees. The District will not refuse to provide a transcript for a current or former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt; condition the provision of a transcript on the payment on a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript; charge a higher fee for obtaining a transcript, or provide less favorable treatment of a transcript request because a student owes a debt; or use transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.

Unauthorized Access:

Any student or District representative who is found to have gained access to student records including grade recording systems without proper authorization, or who is found to have used information accessed or changed any grade without proper authority to do so, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with District policies and procedures and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the District or college where the incident occurred.

Use of Social Security Numbers:

The District shall not do any of the following:

- Publicly post or publicly display an individual's social security number;
- Print an individual's social security number on a card required to access products or services;
- Require an individual to transmit his/her/their social security number over the internet using a connection that is not secured or encrypted;
- Require an individual to use his/her/their social security number to access an Internet Web site without also requiring a password or unique personal identification number or other authentication device; or
- Print, in whole or in part, an individual's social security number that is visible on any materials that are mailed to the individual, except those materials used for:
 - ♦ Application or enrollment purposes;
 - ♦ To establish, amend, or terminate an account, contract, or policy; or
 - ♦ To confirm the accuracy of the social security number.

See also AP 5500 Standards of Student Conduct