

Asking for a Friend: The FERPA Questions You Want Answered but are Too Afraid to Ask.



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The 2021 (106th) Annual Meeting

Overview

What We Will Be Discussing

FERPA Questions/Cases

Your FERPA Questions During Q&A



FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- I have a parent who wants to know if her daughter is failing a class that she is taking for dual credit at the local high school. Mom says the high school would normally just give her this information, but (this time) they sent her to the Registrar's Office instead. Since the student is a minor and the high school is just going to give it to her any way can I tell her the student's grade?

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- In a similar vein, Jane is a senior in high school and is also taking classes at LCC, the local community college. The classes she is taking at LCC count both for high school and college credit. How does FERPA apply to her education records?

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- How do you handle getting student record data to a faculty member who is writing a letter of recommendation for a former student?

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- Likewise, a former student of my college is applying for a job and needs a letter of recommendation. He reaches out to one of his favorite professors who still works at the college. The professor thought very highly of this student and is willing to write the letter of recommendation but asks me for advice.

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- A faculty member is teaching multiple sections of a course and wants to record the lecture, class interaction and discussion... and then share that recording with other section of her course. What are the FERPA items we need to keep in mind?

FERPA Cases/Questions

Class Web-Based Discussion Sites, Part 1

- Fred Faculty teaches a course that has a web-based lecture-discussion component. Class members can see each other's email addresses and name. It is not open to the public for view or use. Are there any FERPA issues?

FERPA Cases/Questions

Class Web-Based Discussion Sites, Part 2

- Instructor Cheryl wants to make her on-line course management pages publicly accessible to anyone. Are there FERPA implications for making this information available to individuals beyond the course?

FERPA Cases/Questions

Podcasting Classes

- Professor Pendergast wants to publicly podcast the entire content of his courses. This includes class discussion. He decides this shortly before the term begins and has not notified registered students that this will be occurring. What are the FERPA implications for this practice?

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- In FERPA, religion cannot be listed as part of directory information. As a religious school that receives support from the Denomination, we are asked to complete a report with a student's religious denomination. Do we need to get students permission to release this information?

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- I have a federal agent in my office who has presented me with a request for student records as part of a background check. The student signature line has a typed signature with text about DOD, but I have no way to validate the signature. Can I release the student's record with this digital type signature?

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- We received a subpoena for records of a student. Can I go ahead and make copies of the entire file and send to the law firm right away?

FERPA Cases/Questions

What was the issue?

- In 2017 Texas passed SB 4 relating to sanctuary cities in Texas. This law covers compliance of campus police and so extends to those in charge of immigration data such as Registrars. One of my vice presidents asked if we could just add “immigration status” to our directory information to bypass issues with FERPA when these requests arise. Does FERPA allow institutions to include immigration status in their directory information?



Special Thanks to:

LeRoy Rooker, AACRAO Senior Fellow and FERPA Guru.

Dennis Hicks, Registrar, Indiana University – East, Voice of Lil’ LeRoy





Thanks for joining

Contact us for further questions

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