



Snoqualmie Valley

Public Schools

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Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The option to restrict the release of directory information about your student

The Snoqualmie Valley School District is required to honor families' privacy while meeting its obligation to share education-related information with the community. The annual Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) notification and opt-out process—described in this form—helps schools balance these interests.

FERPA is a federal law that allows school districts to disclose students' "directory information" to anyone, without consent, as long as the district annually notifies parents and allows them the chance to opt out. FERPA defines directory information as information contained in a student's education record that generally would not be considered harmful or invasive to privacy if disclosed. The law allows school districts to determine and notify parents of its exact definition of such directory information.

The Snoqualmie Valley School District defines student directory information as: full name, address, phone number, photograph/image, date and place of birth, grade level, participation in school activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of school attendance, diplomas and awards, schools attended, and parent(s) name and email.

Under FERPA, if you do **NOT** want the Snoqualmie Valley School District to release directory information about your student, ***you must make a request in writing and send it to your school principal by September 15 each year.*** A sample FERPA opt-out letter follows.

- **What happens if you write the FERPA opt-out letter?** The Snoqualmie Valley School District and its schools will **not** release your students' directory information in any publications that reach beyond the schoolhouse or to any outside organization. This means, for example, that your student will **not** be included in the school yearbook, PTSA newsletters, school directories, photos or videos on district websites or newsletters, event and athletic programs, social media, award listings in local media, or school newspapers. Essentially, the district will **not** provide any information externally that validates your student's identity or enrollment in its schools.
- **What happens if you do not write the letter?** The Snoqualmie Valley School District and its schools will release your student's directory information in publications and to outside organizations to promote non-commercial, education-related news, achievements, and activities. This material may be viewed by others. This includes using your child's name and photo/image on the district's websites, social media, and in newsletters, yearbooks, and athletic/event programs. Without seeking parent/guardian consent, schools could allow, for example: the Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation to use film from your student's class to highlight a program during its annual luncheon; local newspapers to run a picture of your student's class engaged in a learning activity; or a local non-profit to publicize your student's name for participating in a school fundraiser that benefited the organization.

Even for students with no FERPA opt-out letter on record, district employees will exercise their best judgment when releasing directory information and seek parent/guardian permission for situations that would generally be considered outside of the realm of typical school-related activities or news. Also, the District cannot control the release of certain directory information—such as photographs/images or names—when students participate in school events open to the general public.

(Information continued on next page)

A note about School Portrait Photography: The school portrait photographer, regardless of whether a parent/guardian plans to purchase a photo package, will take photographs of all students. The student photograph (digital and physical) will be provided to the school district and to classroom teachers for internal use related to the student's education. Student photographs are uploaded into the district's student information system, library system, lunch system, transportation system and other systems for operational efficiencies, and to enhance student safety and security.

For more information about FERPA rights, refer to: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

OPTIONAL: Use this sample letter to create your own FERPA opt out letter **ONLY IF YOU UNDERSTAND** what it means to opt out your student under FERPA, i.e. no yearbook picture, no name or image used in school directories or publications, etc.

FERPA opt-out letter

*Parents must submit to their student's principal by September 15 of each year.
The previous year's letter will **NOT** carry over.*

DATE: _____

RE: FERPA DIRECTORY/PHOTO INFORMATION

Dear Principal,

As allowed by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, I request that neither my child's school _____ nor the Snoqualmie Valley School District publicly release any personally identifiable information from my child(ren)'s education records without my written consent.

Child's Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Sincerely,

Parent Signature

Parent Printed Name

Please read the FERPA details on the previous page or online at:
<https://www.svsd410.org/Page/201#FERPALink> — before you decide whether or not to opt out your student.

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