PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) is a federal law that affords certain rights to parents of minor students with regard to surveys that ask questions of a personal nature. Briefly, the law requires that schools obtain written consent from parents before minor students are required to participate in any U.S. Department of Education funded survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning the following areas:

- Political affiliations;
- Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family;
- Sex behavior and attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent*; or
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.)

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 contains a major amendment to PPRA that gives parents more rights with regard to the surveying of minor students, the collection of information from students for marketing purposes, and certain non-emergency medical examinations.

Parents/guardians shall receive notice of any of the following activities and shall have the right to opt-out:

- Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for purposes of marketing or selling or otherwise distributing the information to others;
- Administration of any protected information survey (a survey containing one or more of the above-described eight categories of information) even those not federally funded; and
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students, except for hearing, vision or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law.

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect the following, upon request, prior to administration by the school:

- Protected information surveys of students (including an instructional materials used in connection with the survey), as described above;
- Documents used to collect personal information from students for any of the marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes referred to above; and
- Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

Annual Notice

The school shall annually notify parents/guardians of their rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The annual notice must also include:

- A description of who is considered to be a school official and what is considered to be a legitimate educational interest so that information may be shared with that person;
- Information about who to contact to seek access or amendment of education records.

For Further Information or Complaints of Alleged Violations

Parents and eligible students who need assistance or who wish to file a complaint of alleged violations under FERPA or PPRA should do so in writing to the Family Policy Compliance Office, sending pertinent information through the mail, concerning any allegations to the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

A full copy of FERPA and PPRA rights are available through the school office.