



SUBJECT: Student Affairs

POLICY: 302.3 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

RELATED PROCEDURE: 302.3.1 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Procedures

EFFECTIVE: June 2007

REVISED:

REVIEWED: March 2018

Introduction and Purpose

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The federal [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5&node=34:1.1.1.1.33), <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5&node=34:1.1.1.1.33>, (also called FERPA or the Buckley Amendment) affords students certain privacy rights regarding their education records. Those rights are summarized below.

FERPA protects the privacy of all education records, in any medium, maintained by Great Falls College Montana State University (hereinafter Great Falls College MSU). Although the law was written in 1974, its coverage is not limited to paper copies. All student education records, including records about students contained in computer databases, are protected. Additionally, [Montana law](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/20/25/20-25-511.htm), leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/20/25/20-25-511.htm, protects students' right to privacy and is considered more restrictive in its approach to the release of dependent student information to parents.

Generally, only directory information, http://www.gfcmsu.edu/about/ferpa/directory_information.html, may be released to third parties, including parents of dependent or independent students, without the students' written consent.

See <http://www.gfcmsu.edu/about/ferpa>.