

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
759 VALLEY ROAD
GILLETTE, NEW JERSEY 07933
(908) 647-1200 PHONE (908) 647-7818 FAX

Dr. René Rovtar
Superintendent of Schools

August 10, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Long Hill Township School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the school district may disclose appropriate designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of the directory information is to allow the Long Hill Township School District to include this type of information from your child's records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A program showing your student's role in a drama production or concert
- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll or other recognition list
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets and press releases

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local education agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory categories – names addresses and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their child's information disclosed without their prior written consent (this information is not typically ever requested at the elementary level.)

If you do not want the Long Hill Township School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify your child's principal in writing by September 30, 2011. The Long Hill Township School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Honors and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level

Thank your for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
René T. Rovtar, Ed.D.
Superintendent

**Notification of Rights under FERPA
for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.
Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.
Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

[Optional] Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the *School District* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

[NOTE: In addition, a school may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by § 99.37 of the regulations, with its annual notification of rights under FERPA.

