



STATEMENT OF POLICY

Connected Circles recognizes the importance of keeping accurate and appropriate education records for students as part of a sound educational program and is committed to act as trustee of this information, maintaining these records for educational purposes to serve the best interests of its students.

The principles of accuracy and confidentiality underlie all policies and procedures for the collection, maintenance, disclosure and destruction of education records. It is the policy of the school to protect the confidentiality of education records and release information only as permitted by law. Annually or when the student enrolls, the school will inform parents, guardians, and students eighteen years and older of their rights with respect to the student's education records and the available procedures for exercising those rights. This shall include notification of the following:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that the law authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
5. The procedure for exercising the right to inspect and review education records.
6. The procedure for requesting amendment of records.
7. The types of personally identifiable information that the school has designated as directory information, and a parent or eligible student's right to opt out of the disclosure of directory information.
8. The procedure for a parent or eligible student to notify the school that they want to opt out of the school's disclosure of directory information.
9. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest as defined by FERPA.

Administrative Responsibilities

The director will be the custodian of all education records, have overall responsibility for education records, and for assuring that adequate systems are in place to maintain such records and to provide parents with access to them in accordance with state and federal law. The director is responsible for developing procedures to assure the consistent implementation of this policy. The procedures shall comply with all federal and state laws and regulations governing access to and the collection, maintenance, disclosure, and destruction of education records. This includes records sent as part of the referral process.

Definitions

All terms used in this policy, and the procedures developed for the implementation of this policy, shall be defined, where applicable, as those terms are defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and in the federal regulations promulgated pursuant to that Act.

Legal Reference(s):	20 U.S.C. §§ 1232g (Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974)
	20 U.S.C. § 7908
	16 V.S.A. § 563(27) (NCLBA Armed Forces Recruiter/Higher Education Access)
	34 C.F.R. Part 99
	1 V.S.A. § 317 (Definitions)
	15 V.S.A. § 670 (Non-custodial parents)
	33 V.S.A. § 5536a (Juvenile court records)
	VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices § 2113