

Maria Montessori Academy
Policy: Family Education Rights and Privacy Policy
Adopted: October 13, 2015



Policy

The purpose of this policy is to encourage positive parental involvement in the education of children attending Maria Montessori Academy (the “School”). The School will comply with State and federal laws concerning family educational rights and privacy, including but not limited to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Utah Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The School’s Principal will establish administrative procedures that provide standards for the protection of private information within the curriculum and other school activities and in the administration of psychological or psychiatric examinations, tests, or treatments, or any survey, analysis or evaluation of students. The procedures will also address the management of student educational records.

Administrative Procedures

These procedures are established pursuant to the Board's Family Educational Rights and Privacy Policy

Activities Prohibited without Prior Written Consent

Prior Written Consent Requirement

Any School employee or agent who plans to administer to a student in any grade any psychological or psychiatric examination, test, or treatment, or any survey, analysis or evaluation that has the purpose or evident intended effect of causing the student to reveal information, whether the information is personally identifiable or not, concerning the student's or any family member's:

- (a) political affiliations or, except as provided under Utah Code § 53A-13-101.1 or rules of the Utah State Board of Education, political philosophies;
- (b) mental or psychological problems;
- (c) sexual behavior, orientation, or attitudes;
- (d) illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- (e) critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student or family member has close family relationships;
- (f) religious affiliations or beliefs;
- (g) legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, medical personnel, or ministers; or
- (h) income, except as required by law;

shall obtain prior written consent from the student's parent or guardian at least two (2) weeks before the test/treatment/survey/analysis/evaluation is administered or the information listed above is sought, unless the employee or agent must seek this type of private information due to an emergency, or unless a student spontaneously discloses the information.

The prohibitions also apply within the curriculum and other School activities.

Parental Notice and Consent Checklist

In order to be valid, written parental notice and consent shall include the following:

- (a) parent signature; and
- (b) written notice that the parent may obtain written information concerning:
 - (i) why the test, treatment, survey, analysis, or evaluation is being administered;
 - (ii) when the test, treatment, survey, analysis, or evaluation will be administered (the date of administration must be at least two (2) weeks from the date of parent notice);

- (iii) where the test, treatment, survey, analysis, or evaluation will be administered;
- (iv) who will administer the test, treatment, survey, analysis, or evaluation and who will have access to the information gathered;
- (v) what information is being sought and how it will be collected (i.e., parents must be notified of their right to examine test questions and materials, research proposals and methodologies, etc.);
- (vi) address and phone number of a School employee to whom parents may direct inquiries or concerns (principal, teacher, administrator, etc.).

A general consent used to approve admission to school or involvement in special education, remedial education, or a school activity does not constitute written consent for these purposes.

Duration of Parental Authorization

Unless otherwise agreed to by a student's parent or guardian and the person requesting written consent, the authorization is valid only for the activity for which it was granted; or until the parent withdraws consent, during the course of the activity, by submitting a written withdrawal of authorization to the school principal.

Waiver of Parental Notice Period

A parent may waive the 2-week notice period by signing and returning a written waiver to the School.

Well-Being of a Student

If a School employee or agent believes that a situation exists that presents a serious threat to the well-being of a student, that employee or agent shall notify the student's parent or guardian without delay. If, however, the matter has been reported to the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), it is the responsibility of DCFS to notify the student's parent or guardian.

Risk of Suicide

If a school employee or agent believes a student is at risk of attempting suicide, physical self-harm, or harming others, the school employee or agent may intervene and ask a student questions regarding the student's suicidal thoughts, physically self-harming behavior, or thoughts of harming others for the purposes of: (i) referring the student to appropriate prevention services; and (ii) informing the student's parent or legal guardian.

Student Education Records Management

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect and review all of their student's education

records maintained by the School. If the education records of a student contain information on more than one student, the parent/guardian may inspect and review or be informed of only the specific information about their student.

- The School will grant a request by a parent/guardian for access to the education records of their child within a reasonable period of time, but in no case more than forty-five (45) days after the request has been made.

Parents/guardians may challenge and request the School to amend any portion of their student's education record that is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the privacy rights of the student.

- The School shall consider the request and decide whether to amend the records within a reasonable amount of time. If the Principal decides not to amend the record as requested, the Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the decision and of their right to a hearing.
- Upon request of a parent or guardian, the School shall provide an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the student's education records on the grounds that the information contained in the education records is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy rights of the student.
- Such hearing shall be informal and shall be conducted by an individual who does not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing.
- If, as result of the hearing, the School decides that the challenged information is inaccurate or misleading, the record should be amended accordingly and the parent/guardian informed in writing.
- If, as result of the hearing, the School decides that the challenged information is not inaccurate or misleading, it shall inform the parent/guardian of their right to place a statement in the record, commenting on the challenged information in the record, or stating why they disagree with the decision. Any such document must remain with the contested part of the record for as long as the record is maintained, and shall be disclosed whenever the portion of the record to which the statement relates is disclosed.

The School may not disclose information related to education records without prior parental consent, except as provided by law. Such exceptions include, but are not limited to disclosures:

- To school officials who have a legitimate educational interest;
- To a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task;

- To other schools that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled, so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer;
- To individuals who have obtained court orders or subpoenas;
- To individuals who need to know in cases of health and safety emergencies;
- To officials in the juvenile justice system;
- In connection with audit and evaluation of federally or state supported education programs;
- To the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for foreign students attending school under a visa; or
- To the Attorney General of the United States in response to an ex parte order in connection with the investigation or prosecution of terrorism crimes.

The School may disclose directory information for appropriate reasons if it has given parents annual notice of their right to request that their student's directory information not be released by the School.

- The following information relating to students may be declared directory information from time to time:
 - (a) name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number;
 - (b) date and place of birth;
 - (c) major field of study;
 - (d) participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
 - (e) weight and height of members of athletic teams;
 - (f) dates of attendance;
 - (g) degrees and awards received;
 - (h) most recent previous education agency or institution attended; and
 - (i) photograph
- The School shall not release directory information to any individual or organization for commercial use.

The School shall give full rights to student education records to either parent (or guardian), unless the School has been provided with evidence that there is a court order or other legally binding instrument relating to matters such as divorce, separation, or custody that specifically revokes these rights.

Confidentiality of Student Information

The School and all employees, volunteers, third party contractors, or other agents of the School shall protect the privacy of the student and the student's family through compliance with the protections established under state and federal law.

The School will provide appropriate training to employees regarding the confidentiality of student performance data and personally identifiable student information.

Data Collection and Storage Procedures

The School will ensure that school enrollment verification data, student performance data, and personally identifiable student information are collected, maintained and transmitted in a secure manner and consistent with sound data collection and storage procedures.

Access to Information

Access to confidential student information will be limited to individuals with a legitimate educational interest in the data. The Principal/Director will determine which individuals have a legitimate educational interest in having access to particular data. In general, this will include the Principal/Director, other administrative personnel such as an assistant administrator or counselor, members of the School's front office staff, members of the School's special education staff (in accordance with special education regulations regarding school records), teachers (for students in their classes), and third parties with which the School has contracted to perform special tasks for the School. The School will ensure that all individuals who have access to student information will understand how, where and when they can access this data and will commit to fulfill their obligations to protect the confidentiality of the information.

Physical Protection

Any physical documents containing confidential student information will be stored in a secured, locked location. Access to the storage location will be determined by the Principal/Director.

Technological Protection

The School will ensure that appropriate technological protections are in place, as described below, whenever the School gathers, transmits, or stores confidential information electronically.

The School currently uses Aspire as its Student Information System. This is the primary location in which the School will store electronic data. This program provides a secure location for the maintenance and transmission of confidential student information. In the event the School decides to use a Student Information System other than Aspire, the School will ensure that the system is approved by USOE and is adequately secure.

The School uses an online registration system for the registration and enrollment of all new students entering the school and for the declaration of current students for re-enrollment. This system is used to run lotteries when applications to the School exceed available openings. The School uses the system to gather student information to enter into the School's Student Information System. This system has been designed with security features that satisfy industry standards. The School will ensure that the system is updated over time to maintain adequate security.

All confidential student information that is stored electronically will be in a location that is password protected. Such data will not be stored on local device drives or on removable data storage media.

The School will ensure that its network, including servers and wireless access components, employs industry standard security measures.

School personnel will not share log in information for any system in which confidential student information is stored unless authorized by the Principal/Director.

Confidential student information will only be transmitted through secure means such as Movelt and will not be transmitted via e-mail in an unencrypted format.

Personnel Responsibilities

School personnel are responsible for entering student data into the School's Student Information System. This includes information obtained through the School's online registration system and other data gathered throughout the course of the school year. School personnel also manage the maintenance and reporting of records and data required by governmental entities.

The Principal/Director will ensure that School personnel will periodically obtain professional training to ensure that they perform their responsibilities properly and that they comply with all requirements associated with protecting and maintaining the confidentiality of student records and data. This training may include topics such as appropriate and inappropriate access and use of data; who may access data and for what purposes; asking questions when access decisions need to be made; handling problems when misunderstandings arise; data collection procedures and expectations; protecting data during collection, use and storage; key aspects of data security.

Third Party Access to Confidential Information

The School's Educational Services Provider, Academica West, will have access to the personally identifiable student data and school enrollment verification data collected and maintained by the School in connection with legitimate educational purposes of the School.

Data Breach

The School will notify the parent or guardian of a student if there is a release of the student's personally identifiable student data due to a security breach.