

FERPA – What Does It Matter?

Since 1974, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) has guaranteed parents and students certain protections, including access to their child's education records and some control over who else may know information from the records. Examples include school employees divulging information to anyone other than the student about the student's grades or behavior, and -- important to Seedling mentors – whether the student is enrolled. When your mentee has changed schools over the summer, the new school is obligated to receive proof from Seedling that the parent gives consent for them to disclose the child's enrollment. Therefore, there can be a delay in our obtaining information and assisting you in getting reconnected with your mentee.

This law also helps explain why school staff may seem reluctant to answer questions about a student's academic progress or about a disciplinary incident. The good news is that your mentee and family have rights, and that our school partners prudently protect those rights.