

FERPA

You Can't Always Get What You Want
(Unless You Know These Rules)

Would you like Minnesota State Community and Technical College to be able to provide you with information about your student's academic progress or even your financial balance? If so, read on. You may be surprised to learn that in most cases, M State will need your student's written consent. M State has a duty to protect student privacy and we encourage you to act now to ensure access to student information when you need it or at least avoid the frustration of being caught unaware of the rules.

Why do colleges and universities say they need to protect the privacy of student records?

It's not just a school policy, but it's the law. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are subject to federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and state law, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA), which contain detailed rules about student record privacy. One key provision of those laws is that college and university students have the right to control disclosure of private education records about themselves. <http://www.mnstate.edu/ferpa>

What do we do with the completed Release of Information Forms?

The completed release of information forms should be kept on file at the high school. An original release form is not required. Schools may honor a copy of a valid release, including a