



FERPA Waiver Explanation

When completing your college applications, you will be asked to complete a FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) waiver. It is important to waive your FERPA rights when completing a college application; the following will explain why.

What is FERPA?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), otherwise known as the Buckley Amendment, was passed to protect the privacy of students' educational records. It gives parents and students who are 18 years and older the right to access their records.

Why should I waive my FERPA rights when applying to college?

When your student documents are being sent to prospective colleges, those files include:

- Official High School Transcript
- Senior Year Schedule
- Letters of Recommendation (if required & requested by the student)

Students can access a copy of their unofficial high school transcript in Infinite Campus, and receive verification of their senior year course selections. The FERPA waiver only applies to letters of recommendation.

It is ***strongly recommended*** that you ***waive*** your rights to view your letters of recommendation (from your teacher and/or your counselor), because the college/university you are applying to will feel it is a more authentic & honest recommendation if you waive your right. Teachers and counselors are not required to write/submit letters of recommendation, and most will decline a student who does not waive their right.

If I don't waive my right, when can I see my letter of recommendation?

If a student chooses not to waive their FERPA rights, they can only see their letter of recommendation if:

- A student applies to a college/university & the letter(s) of recommendation are sent,
- A student is admitted to a college/university, where the letter(s) of recommendation were sent,
- AND a student enrolls in a college/university where the letter(s) of recommendation were sent

So you would only be able to view a letter of recommendation after you've enrolled in a college/university.