

Antelope Valley Union High School District Facts about Confidentiality

The right to privacy/confidentiality is not only a right – It's the law

The “right to privacy / confidentiality is a right for everyone that extends to all areas of life, including the public education system.”

- **Do not** release any documents without consulting your administrator.
- **Do not** discuss confidential matters in the presence of others, students or staff.

FERPA – Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

- Specifically addresses confidentiality of ALL records the school maintains about students, regardless of storage, including health and medical information.
- Confidential information is any student-identifiable information collected by schools and government agencies that can only be released for specifically and legally defined purposes.
- Permits accessibility to information for employees with a specific educational need to know. This may include staff who need certain health information in order to appropriately care for students.
- **Requests for IEPs, individualized health care plans, nursing service plans, psychological reports, and progress reports should be directed to the Special Education Secretary.**

HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

- Specifically covers the confidentiality of all medical information.
- Gives the patient / individual / parent more control over a person's identifiable health information, when and how to release health records, and the distribution and use of the health information by others.
- Requires prior written consent by the parent / legal guardian or student 18 years or older to send, receive, read, or disclose any health information (verbally, written, or electronically).
- In an emergency, school officials can provide information from education records to protect the safety or health of the student or others.
- **All requests for health information MUST be distributed through the Health Office Technician and the District Nurse and is not available from the Special Educations secretary,**

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