

Throughout high school, the District collects information from students and guardians, but the true extent of the data collected and the accessibility of each student's profile can be obscure. This information is passed down from state-level education offices by necessity.

Teachers' access to student data is mostly limited to their current students. Beyond basic information including addresses, phone numbers and current grades, they also possess critical health notices and information in 504s and IEPs.

All of a student's provided medical information is overseen and stored by the health office. The athletic department and coaches use this information and student grades to determine student-athlete eligibility.

The district's annual statement on parent and guardian rights states that the district can collect any data from a student's social media if it relates to school or student safety. Students and their parents or guardians may request the removal or correction of this information.

Unless a parent or guardian opts a student out at the beginning of every school year, the district, by law, provides the U.S. Military students' address and contact information, among other details, for recruiting purposes.

Data Debrief

Directory information, according to the district, is not "harmful or an invasion of privacy if released," and can be disclosed without a guardian's prior written consent unless requested otherwise.
The information includes:
- Names
- Addresses
- Phone Numbers
- Email Addresses
- Dates of Birth
- Participation in activities
- Heights and weights of athletes
- Awards received
- Most recent previous schools
- Dates of attendance

CUMULATIVE FILES

The school administration maintains cumulative files containing records from a student's years in school - from kindergarten to graduation. These files travel with students throughout their compulsory school years, even when they switch schools or transfer districts.

Cumulative files often contain:
- Proofs of residency or registration documents
- Old academic transcripts
- Teacher write-ups
- Standardized test results
- Old school photos

Once in high school, these files usually stop being updated, but remain available as a potential resource for teachers and administrators to better help students. A student can view their cumulative file at any time upon request, and these files are kept for seven years after a student graduates high school, after which they are shredded and discarded.

Confidential- to what degree?

Data Declassified

Navigating Student Statistics

Data in action

Circumstance sometimes necessitates privacy to be bumped to a lower priority. Teachers are required by law to fully understand their students' 504 and IEP plans, which contain extensive personal information. Furthermore, any wellness and administrative interventions require guardians to be subsequently briefed, regardless of the student's wishes.

"The rule I follow is that the fewest people get to hear the smallest amount of information required to maintain safety. The line we try to walk [leans] as much into confidentiality as we can."

Max Bernstein,
Wellness Counselor

"Right now, [for students], it doesn't seem like all that big of a deal. But down the line ... there's lots of [people] combing through [your] paper trail to get as much information as they can on the person."

Cheri Dartnell,
Math Teacher

Caution and awareness emerge as valuable traits in a world where what is and is not confidential becomes increasingly blurred.

"There definitely needs to be safeguards of privacy. There [is] ... a balance that has to be struck, and there has to be transparency. The important thing is disclosure."

Craig Sipple,
Math Teacher

Even though the information that the district collects is used to ensure student safety and success, some still see data collection, or at least some forms of it, as an invasion of privacy.

"The data that counselors receive from talking to students [is called] street data. It's not something that you're going to find on paper. For example, [we get] street data of how students feel on this campus. [We also get] street data of our school being really academic ... and there's this hidden 'trying to one-up one another' competition ...

There's always chatter out there and we hear those things- counselors are known as the eyes and ears of the school. [We know that] this is the word on the street. This is what we've been hearing on campus. This is like students were saying, and that data is super helpful."

- Lea Sanguinetti, Counselor