



February 28, 2017

Dear Poway Unified Parents and Students,

In our district, we pride ourselves on our strength and unity. We stand by our commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of all students. Poway Unified is dedicated to providing our students with college and career readiness, and the Board of Education is determined to maintain classrooms that are conducive to learning for all students, regardless of immigration status.

We would like to educate families of the existing laws in place to protect student records. The 1984 Plyler v Doe U.S. Supreme Court decision requires schools to enroll all eligible children, regardless of immigration status. No student records can be released without parent permission, a court order, or lawful subpoena. Additionally, parents have extensive flexibility when enrolling their children in school; while we must verify a student's age and residency, those documents do not need to pertain to a student's immigration status. For example, Poway Unified can rely on a statement from the local registrar, baptismal records, or an affidavit from a parent.

In addition, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) generally prohibits school districts from providing third parties information about students contained in student records. More specifically, unless another exemption provided by law applies, FERPA generally prohibits school districts from disclosing personally identifiable information in a student's "education records" to outside agencies without written parental consent, judicial order, or a lawfully-issued subpoena.

Furthermore, we echo the strongest commitment to school safety expressed in Tom Torlakson's December 21, 2016, [letter](#).

Students and families, regardless of immigration status, should feel safe and engaged in their school site. We want our parents/guardians involved in their child's educational process by volunteering, attending school events and activities, and participating in leadership roles.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Poway Unified School District at 15250 Avenue of Science, San Diego, CA 92129 or 858-521-2700.

Sincerely,

Poway Unified Board of Education

[Link to Tom Torlakson's letter to school districts](#)