



August 19, 2026

Dear AACPS Families and Employees:

As you may be aware, our school district has received a letter from the United States Department of Justice regarding Administrative Regulation JQ-RA, Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students, and its compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

In response, we have amended JQ-RA to clarify that nothing in JQ-RA shall be construed to limit or otherwise interfere with parents' rights under FERPA, including the right to inspect and review their child's complete education record.

Under FERPA, education records generally include all records, files, documents, and other materials maintained by Anne Arundel County Public Schools that contain information directly related to a student. Policy JH and Administrative Regulation JH-RA, Student Records, govern student records at AACPS. FERPA protects the privacy of parents and students by generally prohibiting schools that receive federal education funding from disclosing personally identifiable information from a student's education records without the parent's consent, except in limited circumstances.

The changes to JQ-RA are reflected in Section 4, Confidentiality.

Specifically, the language now reads:

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of parents/guardians and students by generally prohibiting schools that receive federal education funding from disclosing personally identifiable information from a student's education records without the parent's/guardian's consent, except in limited circumstances.

Nothing in this regulation shall be construed to limit or otherwise interfere with parents'/guardians' rights under FERPA, including the right to inspect and review their student's complete education record. Under FERPA, education records generally include all records, files, documents, and other materials maintained by AACPS that contain information directly related to a student. Board of Education of Anne Arundel County Policy JH and Administrative Regulation JH-RA – Student Records – govern student records at AACPS.

[The amended regulation can be found in its entirety here.](#)

As made clear by these amendments, no policy, guideline, or practice may limit or otherwise interfere with parental rights under FERPA, and this includes any information maintained in education records that relates to gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, preferred name, or preferred pronouns.

Yours in Education,

Mark T. Bedell, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools