



Higher Education Policies

Overview

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires schools that receive certain federal funds to protect student and family privacy by making educational records available only to authorized parties—such as parents, eligible students, and certain school officials. The Sentrion Higher Education Policies Application automatically enforces FERPA rules by detecting protected information in emails and attachments and taking appropriate policy-based action.

Audience

Public and private higher education institutions in the United States that receive funding under the applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

Key Features and Functionality Overview

Under the provisions of FERPA, schools generally cannot release information from a student's educational record without written permission from a parent or an eligible student—defined as someone who has reached the age of 18 or is attending a school beyond the high-school level. But there are exceptions. For example, FERPA permits disclosure of records without consent to:

- School officials with legitimate educational interest
- Other schools to which a student is transferring
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student
- Organizations conducting certain studies on behalf of the school
- Accrediting organizations
- Authorities presenting a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies
- State and local authorities within a juvenile justice system as provided by state law

And there are other exceptions. For example, schools can disclose without consent information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, and dates of attendance—but only after giving parents and eligible students a prior right of refusal.

Obviously, there's a lot to keep track of when making decisions regarding the provision of student records. And with the advent of email, monitoring and enforcing FERPA compliance has become much more challenging than when the law was first enacted in 1974. Fortunately, there's simple way to ensure automatic compliance for college and university email systems.

Sentrion Higher Education Policies work within your mail stream to guard against the release of FERPA-protected information to unauthorized parties. Our Professional Services team tailors the policies to the specific data sources, networks, and processes used by your institution and partner agencies. Email can only be routed from your Sentrion appliance if it's addressed to an authorized recipient, has had personally identifiable information properly obfuscated, or contains no protected information—whatever your specific procedures require.

The application works with Sentrion Incident Remediation and Reporting for simple management and audit, and it also works with our Voltage and S/MIME solutions to provide policy-based encryption. All on a single platform—without the expense and integration headaches of third-party add-ons. On the subject of FERPA compliance, we've done our homework.