Student Privacy Statement and Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement

Student Privacy and Volunteer Confidentiality

Students in Staunton City Schools have the right to expect that information about them will be kept confidential by all volunteers. Additionally, the United States Congress has addressed the privacy-related concerns of educators, parents and students by enacting the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (known more commonly as "FERPA" or the "Buckley Amendment"). Among other provisions, FERPA allows the government to withdraw federal funds from any educational institution, including Staunton City Schools, which disseminates student's education records without his/her parental consent.

- Each student with whom you work with has the right to expect that nothing that he/she does or says will be communicated and/or repeated to anyone other than the volunteer coordinator and/or designee. Even when discussing student information with those who are directly involved in the student's education such as a teacher, principal, and/or school counselor, you may not share otherwise confidential information with them unless they have a "need to know" in order to perform their professional responsibilities. ·
- You may not share information about a student even with others who are genuinely interested in the student's welfare such as coaches, clergy, scout leaders or nurses/physicians. **Exception**: A health or safety emergency where knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or others including suspected child abuse and neglect. As a volunteer in a public facility, you are considered a mandated reporter by the Code of Virginia and must immediately report suspected child abuse and neglect to the local department of social services or to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline.
- Parents, friends, or community members may in good faith ask you questions about a student's problems or progress. Again, you must refer all such questions to the authorized school employees. You may not share information about a student even with members of you own family or the student's family. ·

- Before you speak, always remember that violating a student's confidentiality isn't just impolite, it's against the law.

AGREEMENT

I, (print name)_____, as a volunteer for Staunton City Schools agree not to disclose information about a student or a student's record to anyone other than the volunteer coordinator or designee except for a health or safety emergency including suspected child abuse and neglect where knowledge of all information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or others. I will refer all requests for such information from those not directly involved in the student's education to the volunteer coordinator or designee.

Signature_____

Date_____