

BLACKBOARD LEARN™ AND PRIVACY

Overview

Laws protecting student privacy have been in place in the United States since the mid 1970's, however schools have not been overly concerned about exposing their students' personal information until the recent explosion of electronic data storage and record keeping. Students and their families are aware that their data and records could be vulnerable and their privacy compromised. They are asking questions about how personal data is stored, protected and used. To respond to these questions, institutions are examining and evaluating their policies and processes for protecting student privacy.

Because electronic data and records are easily transferable and can be manipulated and altered, they need to be protected in ways other than locking doors and file cabinets. Serious consequences such as the loss of federal funding can result from not complying with privacy laws. This section provides information on what privacy laws are relevant to Blackboard applications and the specific parts of the system users need examine to comply with US privacy laws.



NOTE: This is not a legal document and is not intended to answer legal questions. Legal questions need to be directed to the institution's legal department or counsel.

This section contains the following topics:

CHAPTER TITLE	DESCRIPTION
US Privacy Definitions and Regulations Relevant to Blackboard	Overview of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and how it applies to Blackboard applications.
User Directory and Personal Information Disclosure	Information a school can disclose without a student or parent's written permission and how users can control their directory and personal information within Blackboard applications.
Privacy and Personal Information for Administrators	Areas within the Blackboard Learn software that bring Administrators into contact with personal information.
Privacy and Personal Information for Course and Organization Instructors, Leaders and Similar Roles	Areas within the Blackboard Learn software that bring Instructors and Leaders into contact with personal information.
Privacy and Personal Information for Enrolled Students and Organization Participants	Areas within the Blackboard Learn software that bring Students and Participants into contact with personal information.
Additional Resources	Resources for more information on privacy laws and regulations.

US PRIVACY DEFINITIONS AND REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO BLACKBOARD

Overview

Privacy is the ability of an individual or group to select to withhold information about themselves from people to whom they have not chosen to give the information. In the United States, the Family Education Rights Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99), also known as the Buckley Amendment, is a law that protects the privacy of student records. FERPA provides a minimum basis for the protection of student privacy regarding their education records. This law applies to all schools that receive federal funding under applicable programs administered by the US Department of Education.

FERPA provides a benchmark for educational privacy standards. Many institutions build on FERPA regulations when they write their own institutional privacy policies, in many cases providing even greater and more specific privacy rights than those outlined in FERPA. Some state laws do the same.

Blackboard develops products that support FERPA and provide information, tools and utilities that allow institutions to configure their systems so they can meet even stricter privacy standards. While Blackboard cannot know or anticipate all state, local, or international laws and policies that may need to be applied to the handling of personally identifiable information, FERPA regulations are used as guidelines to develop flexible privacy management within Blackboard applications.



NOTE: Unless otherwise cited, all quotations in this section are taken from the FERPA Regulations.

Disclosing Student Records

Schools must obtain written permission from the student (or parent if the student is under 18) to disclose any information from the student's educational record. Educational records are defined broadly and include grades, all coursework, and personal information about the student, such as contact information and expected graduation date. In short, the school cannot disclose any information about the student to anyone except the student's teachers and other "school officials with legitimate educational interest."

The FERPA statute (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1232g(b)(1)) defines disclosure as:

To permit access to or the release, transfer, or other communication of personally identifiable information contained in education records to any party, by any means, including oral, written, or electronic means.

For Blackboard, disclosure includes not only the direct release of information, but the ability to view information through the web interface.

However, the primary exception is that the school can publish "directory information" about the student, for example name and email address. Fields of data included in directory information vary from school to school (see following section on [User Directory](#) for more information).

Defining Educational Records within Blackboard

Educational records are defined broadly in FERPA and are defined in the statute (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1232g(a)(4)) as:

- (1) Directly related to a student; and
- (2) Maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.

'Record' means any information recorded in any way, including, but not limited to, handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm, and microfiche.

For Blackboard, records include all information about students and their participation in Courses and Organizations. This encompasses all data and materials tied to student users in the Blackboard system.

Defining Personally Identifiable Information in Blackboard

Personally identifiable information is any information or data that can identify a specific student. In FERPA the statute (Authority: 20 U.S.C 1232g) reads:

Personally identifiable information" includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) The student's name;
- (b) The name of the student's parent or other family member;
- (c) The address of the student or student's family;
- (d) A personal identifier, such as the student's social security number or student number;
- (e) A list of personal characteristics that would make the student's identity easily traceable; or
- (f) Other information that would make the student's identity easily traceable.

For Blackboard, personally identifiable information is student record data that identifies the specific student. There is a difference between "personal data" meaning information that is tied to a specific person, and "aggregate data," the cumulative or summary information that does not specifically identify any particular person. For example, "John Smith logged into the Blackboard system at 3:25 on 11/2/2006" includes personally identifiable information, but "48 students logged into the Blackboard system between 3:00 and 4:00 on 11/2/2006" is aggregate data. Aggregate data is generally not as sensitive from a privacy perspective and is not protected by FERPA.

USER DIRECTORY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Overview

Data contained in a student's educational record that is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy can be disclosed as "directory information". Typical directory information might include a student's name, telephone number, grade level, expected graduation date, major field of study and email address. Fields of data included in directory information vary from school to school.

The school is required to give the student or student's parents (if the student is under 18 years old), an annual opportunity to opt-out of being listed in the directory. Furthermore, students have the right to review their own educational records and request corrections to any records they believe to be inaccurate or misleading.

Schools Disclosing Directory Information

Educational institutions or their agents may disclose directory information under the following conditions under the FERPA statute Authority: 20 U.S.C 1232g (a)(5) (A) and (B):

(a) An educational agency or institution may disclose directory information if it has given public notice to parents of students in attendance and eligible students in attendance at the agency or institution of:

(1) The types of personally identifiable information that the agency or institution has designated as directory information;

(2) A parent's or eligible student's right to refuse to let the agency or institution designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information; and

(3) The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the agency or institution in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information.

(b) An educational agency or institution may disclose directory information about former students without meeting the conditions in paragraph (a) of this section.

Although many schools choose to publish in various forms most or all of the directory information about students listed under FERPA, the school must comply with the conditions stated above at all times. Notification to students of the types of directory information published and the student's right to opt out is generally done by a student handbook or some other reference manual, not by personal communication to the students. The notification part of the process generally does not have an impact on the Blackboard system.

For alumni of schools that use Blackboard, note clause (b) above, which states that schools can disclose directory information about alumni without giving alumni an opt-out notification. In general, FERPA provides fewer rights for those who formerly attended the school than it does for those who currently attend.

Administrators Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard

Institutions have several ways to control what personal information is collected and disclosed within the Blackboard User Directory. Personal Information is collected on a form called User Profile. This form can be customized by an administrator. The administrator can include or exclude any of the fields on the form as well as allow or disallow users to edit their data in those fields. Customize the User Profile form from the Administration Panel > Customize User Profile.

Institutions that have a process for handling privacy requests and personal information updates outside of the Blackboard system can turn off access to the Personal Information pages by using flexible privileges management or by turning off the Personal Information tool under Administrator Panel > Tool Panel. Turning off the tool prevents users from making any changes to their User Profile information.

Institutions can disable the User Directory altogether and not disclose any Directory information using the Blackboard Learn software. The User Directory can be turned off system-wide under Administrator Panel > Tool Panel.

Users Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard

If the Personal Information tool is available, users can make their own privacy choices on the Personal Information page, accessible from any tab in the Tools panel or under Tools in any Course or Organization in the Blackboard Learn software. On this page, the user can choose whether to be listed in the User Directory. The user can also choose whether to display their email address, address (Street, City, State, Zip, Country), work information (Company, Job Title, Work Phone, Work Fax), and any other additional contact information (Home Phone, Mobile Phone, Web Site).

These fields and the user's name are the only personal information that is ever displayed in the User Directory, and by default they are **not** included in the User Directory. Users must deliberately opt-in to disclose their information in the directory. In this light, the Blackboard System is more conservative in protecting privacy than FERPA regulations. FERPA calls for an opt-out option for directory information, but Blackboard provides an opt-in option. Blackboard also allows the user to exercise this option at any time, not just during a period of time specified by the institution.

When users choose to make their email addresses available, whether or not they have chosen to be listed in the User Directory, their email addresses will be displayed in the Roster and Group pages for all of the Courses and Organizations in which they are enrolled (see [Privacy and Personal Information for Course Students, Organization Participants](#)).

If the user has opted to include their Personal Information in the User Directory, those fields the user has chosen will display in the User Directory to other users who are logged on to the system.

Users also have the right to confirm that their Personal Information is correct. They can review and modify their own personal information on the Personal Information page if it has been made available.

PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Overview

Users' personal information may, under certain circumstances itemized below, be disclosed to other users in the Blackboard System. These disclosures and the user's right to choose privacy options are in keeping with FERPA regulations.

Blackboard users who have access to the Administrator Panel may be allowed to view personally identifiable information because they are "school officials with legitimate educational interest." Administrators can view (and in some cases change) users' personal information, including student IDs, grades and other education records, passwords, contact information, and roles in Courses, Organizations, and Outcomes assessment module contexts. System Roles can also be given privileges to access Outcomes assessment module contexts as well as course delivery courses and Community engagement module Organizations, including the Course or Organization Control Panel. Institutions need to use caution and good judgment when granting users administrative roles that have privileges to access the paths listed in [System Administration Paths](#).

Privileges can be customized by the institution to limit which System Roles have administrative access to users' personal information.



NOTE: As a security precaution, only the System Administrator role can make modifications to privileges.

Institutions can achieve a satisfactory balance between protecting privacy and giving users with "legitimate educational interest" the information they need to do their jobs by assigning roles and configuring privileges appropriately.

System Administration Paths

The paths listed below give administrators access to personal information.

(Course Catalog module) Course Catalog Browse	> Preview course with Control Panel and Quick Enroll links in Menu
(Organization Catalog module) Organization Catalog Browse	> Preview org with Control Panel and Quick Enroll links in Menu
Administrator Panel (Content management module)	> Administrator Search > Manage Content > Portfolios
Administrator Panel (Community engagement module)	> Domains > eCommerce > Payment Gateway > Payment Gateway Reports > eCommerce > Reports > eMarketplace Reports > eCommerce > Reports > My Accounts Report > eMarketplace > Orders > eMarketplace > Vendors > Modules (delegated module administration)
Administrator Panel (Community engagement module - Organizations)	> Organizations > Archive Organization > Organizations > Copy Organization > Copy Organization with Users (Exact Copy) > Organizations > Modify Organization > Access

- Statistics
- > Organizations > Modify Organization > Enrollments
- > Organizations > Preview org with Control Panel and Quick Enroll links in Menu
- > Organizations > Restore Organization

Administrator Panel (Course delivery module)

- > Courses > Archive Course
- > Courses > Copy Course > Copy Course with Users (Exact Copy)
- > Courses > Modify Course > Course Access Statistics
- > Courses > Modify Course > Enrollments
- > Courses > Preview course with Control Panel and Quick Enroll links in Menu
- > Courses > Restore Course

**Administrator Panel (Course delivery module)
Administrator Panel (Users)**

- > Users

Log Files

Log files contain records of specific events and user actions in the system and therefore include personal information. Institutions need to use caution and good judgment when granting users System Roles that have privileges to access the paths listed below. Access to the logs can be controlled in the User Interface (UI) through flexible privilege management. Logs are also accessible using the command line, and only trusted users should be granted access to command line actions.

The following paths give administrators access to personal information:

Administrator Panel (Tools and Utilities) > Logs > Download System Logs

Administrator Panel (Tools and Utilities) > Logs > Send System Logs

Integrated Learning Environments

Vista and CE4 Learning Systems have their own privacy and personal information options. When these systems are integrated with the Blackboard software, the user's privacy choices in their native Vista or CE4 learning environment do not carry over into the Blackboard software or visa versa. Users need to set their privacy options in each system separately.

Snapshot

Snapshot provides the ability to bulk load user data and synchronize user data with external systems. If an institution is creating and modifying users in the system using Snapshot, any privacy 'flags' for the user's privacy options can be populated from an external data source. Many institutions use this function to transfer the 'FERPA flags' that are typically stored in the student information system directly into the Blackboard system.



NOTE: Because Snapshot is a powerful tool with full access to user data as well as other sensitive system data, only trusted users should be granted access to Snapshot command line actions.

User Selector

When an administrator needs to select another user, to enroll them in a course for example, they can browse for other users with the User Selector, which displays users' names, usernames, and email addresses. With the exception of the [content management](#) module, this function is only available to

administrators, Instructors and Leaders (and similar roles) in Courses and Organizations, and Managers in the Outcomes assessment module, all of whom are generally “school officials with legitimate educational interest.”

Content Management Module

One of the primary purposes of the Content System is for users to share content with one another. Users can be uniquely identified only by their usernames, so the username is displayed as part of the path in the /users directory. In order to select which people to give permission to for sharing, a user will see a list of other users in the [User Selector](#), which displays the users’ names and usernames.

If the institution wants to restrict this display of personal information, they can set the Content System privacy settings so that only users who have opted in to be included in the User Directory will be included in searches in the Content System User Selector. This setting is under Administrator Panel > Content System Settings > Privacy Settings.

Users can also independently decide not to share any content that is in their /users directory with other users in the system. This action prevents others from seeing their username in the path for that content. Alternatively, users can send passes and permanent URLs to other users to share content, hiding the path location of the content and protecting their usernames from being revealed.

Community Engagement Module Discussion Boards

The name of a user who posts to a Community engagement module Discussion Board is displayed, along with the posting, to all users participating in the discussion. To avoid this display of personal information, the user can choose to post to the Discussion Board anonymously if anonymous posts have been enabled.

The ability to create Community engagement module Discussion Boards can be turned off by making the Discussion Board Creation module unavailable and using flexible privileges to restrict access to Administrator Panel > Discussion Boards.

Building Blocks

Homegrown or commercial Building Blocks can be installed that access users’ personal information, with or without the users’ consent. When a Building Block is made available, the administrator reviews a disclosures page that states whether the Building Block accesses users’ personal information. The administrator needs to be careful to only install Building Blocks that are trusted, particularly if they access users’ personal information.

Building Blocks may also include links to external systems that have their own privacy policies and settings.



NOTE: Scholar integration with the Blackboard software is a Building Block.



NOTE: Chalk Titles (a type of Course Cartridge) are similar to Building Blocks in this regard.

PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR COURSE INSTRUCTORS, ORGANIZATION LEADERS AND SIMILAR ROLES

Overview

Blackboard users who have access to the Control Panel of a Course or Organization may be allowed to view personally identifiable information because they are “school officials with legitimate educational interest.” Users with access to the Control Panel can view (and in some cases change) personal information for users in that specific Course or Organization, including grades and other education records, passwords, roles in Courses and Organizations, and contact information. Therefore institutions should use caution and good judgment when granting users Course or Organization roles that have privileges to access the paths listed below.

Privileges can be customized by the institution to limit which Course and Organization roles have access to users' personal information. As a security precaution, only the System Administrator role can make modifications to privileges. Institutions can achieve a satisfactory balance between protecting privacy and giving users with “legitimate educational interest” the information they need to do their jobs by assigning roles and configuring privileges appropriately.



NOTE: Course and Organization roles cannot have separate privileges. Given the fact that Organizations may be led by individuals who are not "school officials with legitimate educational interest" extra caution should be taken to ensure personal information is not being disclosed without permission.

Course and Organization Control Panel Paths

The paths listed below give access to personal information.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Control Panel (Assessment) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Course/Organization Statistics> Early Warning System> Grade Center> Performance Dashboard |
| Control Panel (Content Areas) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Manage Content Item (Adaptive Release and Review Status) |
| Control Panel (Options) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Archive Course/Organization> Archive Course/Organization > Copy Course/Organization with Users (Exact Copy) |
| Control Panel (Tools) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Collaboration> Course/Organization Portfolios (Content management module only)> Digital Dropbox> Discussion Board> Messages> Send Email |
| Control Panel (User Management) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Enroll User> List / Modify Users> Manage Groups |

User Selector

When an Instructor or Leader needs to select another user in various parts of the system, to enroll them in a Course or Organization for example, they can browse for other users with the User Selector, which displays users' names, usernames, and email addresses. With the exception of the [content](#) management module (see below), this functionality is only available to administrators, Instructors and Leaders (and similar roles)

in Courses and Organizations, and Managers in the Outcomes assessment module, all of whom are considered "school officials with legitimate educational interest."

Content Management Module

One of the primary purposes of the Content management module is for users to share content with one another. Users can be uniquely identified only by their usernames, so the username is displayed as part of the path in the /users directory. In order to select which people to give permission to for sharing, a user will see a list of other users in the [User Selector](#), which displays the users' names and usernames.

If the institution wants to restrict this display of personal information, they can set the Content management module privacy settings so that only users who have opted in to be included in the User Directory will be included in searches in the Content management module User Selector. **This setting is under Administrator Panel > Content management module Settings > Privacy Settings.**

Users can also independently decide not to share any content that is in their /users directory with other users in the system. This action prevents others from seeing their username in the path for that content. Alternatively, users can send passes and permanent URLs to other users to share content, hiding the path location of the content and protecting their usernames from being revealed.

Grade Center

Teaching assistants that will be evaluating students will have access to the same types of personal information as instructors do with regards to student records and are considered "school officials with legitimate educational interest". They may, however, be limited to a subset of students enrolled in the Course. Teaching assistants need to be made aware of FERPA regulations as part of their orientation and training for the Course.

Observers have access to view the student records, including grades, of the students they are observing. In most cases, Observers are parents of students under the age of 18, or "school officials with legitimate educational interest" such as guidance councilors, athletic coaches, or tutors.

Discussion Board

The name of a user who posts to the Discussion Board will display, along with the posting, to all users in the Course or Organization or within the Group (if it is a Group discussion). To avoid this display of personal information, the user can choose to post to the Discussion Board anonymously if this option has been enabled by the Instructor or Leader.

Virtual Classroom and Chat

The name of a user participating in a Virtual Classroom session or Chat displays to other participants in the same session. The User Information pop-up displays the personal information that the user has chosen to make available (see [Users Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard](#)).

If the moderator has turned on recording for the session, the user's name is included in the recording with any contributions the user made to the session. The moderator may decide to make the recording available to all users in the Course or Organization or Group (if it is a Group collaboration). Recording is turned off by default, and if it is turned on, recordings are by default not available to all users.

Digital Dropbox

The name of the user who sends a file to another user using the Digital Dropbox is displayed to the user who receives the file. Within Groups, the Digital Dropbox is called File Exchange, and all files are available to all users in the Group; therefore all files in the Group File Exchange display the name of the person who submitted the file to all users in the Group.

Email

The names of email recipients display on the Send Email pages. The email addresses of the recipients do not display in either the Send Email pages or in the email that the users receive. All email is sent by the Blackboard system as "blind carbon copy" (BCC). This means that one user who receives the email will not see the names or email addresses of other users who receive the same message. The name and email address of the user who sent the message will be visible to all recipients when they receive the message.

Groups

The names of users included in a Group within a Course or Organization are listed on the Group page, which is accessible to other users included in that same Group. If the user has chosen to make their email address available (see [Users Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard](#)), their email address is also listed on the Group page.

Messages

The names of message recipients display on the Compose Message page. The name of the user who sent a message to another user is displayed to the user who receives the message.

Portfolios

The user can choose to share a Portfolio with a specific Course or Organization, in which case it will be listed under Course or Organization Portfolios and be accessible by everyone in the Course or Organization. The only information available in the Portfolio is determined by the user. The user can also choose to remove the sharing of the Portfolio from the Course or Organization at any time.

Roster

The names of students or participants enrolled in a Course or Organization are listed in the Roster. If the student has chosen to make their email address available (see [Users Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard](#)), their email address is also listed in the Roster.

Guests and Observers

Users with the System Role of Guest cannot see other users' personal information.

Users with the Course or Organization role of Guest cannot see other users' personal information.

Observers have access to view the student records, including grades, of the students they are observing. In most cases, Observers are parents of students under the age of 18, or "school officials with legitimate educational interest" such as guidance councilors, athletic coaches, or tutors.



Warning: To protect student privacy and comply with international, national and regional laws and regulations, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in the United States, review institutional policy and guidelines before releasing student information to Observers or other users.

PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS

Overview

If the Personal Information tool is available, Students and Participants can make their own privacy choices on the Personal Information page, accessible from any tab in the Tools panel or under Tools in any Course or Organization in the Blackboard Learn software. On this page, Students and Participants can choose whether to be listed in the User Directory and choose whether to display their email address, address (Street, City, State, Zip, Country), work information (Company, Job Title, Work Phone, Work Fax), and any other additional contact information (Home Phone, Mobile Phone, Web Site).

These fields and the user's name are the only personal information that is ever displayed in the User Directory, and by default they are not included in the User Directory unless the user deliberately opts-in to disclose the information. Users can exercise this option at any time, not just during a period of time specified by the institution.

When Students and Participants choose to make their email addresses available, whether or not they have chosen to be listed in the User Directory, their email addresses will be displayed in the Roster and Group pages for all of the Courses and Organizations in which they are enrolled.

If the student or participant has opted to include their Personal Information in the User Directory, those fields the user has chosen will display in the User Directory to other users who are logged on to the system.

Users also have the right to confirm that their Personal Information is correct. They can review and modify their own personal information on the Personal Information page if it has been made available.

Discussion Board

The name of a Student or Participant who posts to the Discussion Board will display, along with the posting, to all users in the Course or Organization or within the Group (if it is a Group discussion). To avoid this display of personal information, the user can choose to post to the Discussion Board anonymously if this option has been enabled by the Instructor or Leader.

Virtual Classroom and Chat

The name of a Student or Participant in a Virtual Classroom or Chat session displays to other participants in the same session. The User Information pop-up displays the personal information that the user has chosen to make available (see [Users Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard](#)).

If the Moderator has turned on recording for the session, the user's name will be included in the recording with any contributions the user made to the session. The Moderator may decide to make the recording available to all users in the Course or Organization or Group (if it is a Group collaboration). Recording is turned off by default, and if it is turned on, recordings are by default not available to all users.

Digital Dropbox

The name of the Student or Participant who sends a file to another user using the Digital Dropbox is displayed to the user who receives the file. Within Groups, the Digital Dropbox is called File Exchange, and all files are available to all users in the Group; therefore all files in the Group File Exchange display the name of the person who submitted the file to all users in the Group.

Email

The names of email recipients display on the Send Email pages. The email addresses of the recipients do not display in either the Send Email pages or in the email that the Student or Participant receive. All email is sent by the Blackboard system as "blind carbon copy" (BCC). This means that one user who receives the email will not see the names or email addresses of other users who receive the same message. The name and email address of the user who sent the message will be visible to all recipients when they receive the message.

Groups

The names of Students or Participants included in a Group within a Course or Organization are listed on the Group page, which is accessible to other users included in that same Group. If the user has chosen to make their email address available (see [Users Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard](#)), their email address is also listed on the Group page.

Homepage

Students and Participants who appear in the Roster can create a Homepage and populate it with any information they wish. Homepages are accessible to all other users enrolled in the same Course or Organization. The only information available on this page is determined by the user.

Messages

The names of message recipients display on the Compose Message page. The name of the user who sent a message to another user is displayed to the user who receives the message.

Portfolios

Students and Participants can choose to share a Portfolio with a specific Course or Organization, in which case it is listed under Course or Organization Portfolios and is accessible by everyone in the Course or Organization. The only information available in the Portfolio is determined by the user. The user can choose to remove the sharing of the Portfolio from the Course or Organization at any time.

Roster

The names of Students or Participants enrolled in a Course or Organization are listed in the Roster. If users have chosen to make their email addresses available (see [Users Disclosing Personal and Directory Information within Blackboard](#)), their email addresses are also listed in the Roster.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Overview

There are many resources for learning about privacy regulations and laws, both in the United States and in other countries. An institution's main resource for interpreting and applying laws and regulations is its legal department or retained legal counsel.

Online Resources

US Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

This site has general information on FERPA.

Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO): <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/index.html>

This site has a mission to implement two laws that seek to ensure student and parental rights in education: the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Council on Law and Higher Education: <http://www.clhe.org/>

This site represents an independent nonprofit organization, founded in 1998, that is dedicated to assisting presidents, senior-level administrators, and attorneys in managing legal risk and improving regulatory compliance.

State Commissions on Higher Education list: <http://clhe.org/legallinks/index.shtml#commissions>

State commissions on higher education act information and regulatory arms for colleges and universities in their respective states. Financial aid, veteran's benefits, state academic goals and funding are all detailed on these sites.

Association for Student Judicial Affairs: <http://www.asjaonline.org/>

This site represents a professional association that serves the needs of campus judicial officers.

Electronic Privacy Information Center: <http://www.epic.org/privacy/student/#introduction>

This site represents a public interest research center in Washington, D.C. It was established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging civil liberties issues and to protect privacy, the First Amendment, and constitutional values. This is a special page on student privacy issues