

# Multnomah Education Service District

Code: **IJA**  
Adopted: 9/20/94  
Revised/Readopted: 2/19/13

## **Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance Support\*\***

The main purpose of confidentiality is to offer students a relationship in which they will be able to deal with what concerns them without fear of disclosure. Therefore, it shall be the professional responsibility of counselors to respect fully the right of privacy of those with whom they enter counseling relationships.

Confidentiality must not be abridged by the counselor except:

1. Where there is a clear and present danger to the client or to other persons;
2. To consult with other professionally competent persons or agencies when this is in the client's interests;
3. When the client waives this privilege in writing;
4. At the earliest time possible, as determined by the counselor, parents will be informed that their student is in on-going counseling. When students are referred to an outside agency, the laws dealing with that agency's rights will then be enacted.

Records of the counseling relationship, including interview notes, test data, correspondence, tape recordings and other documents, are to be considered professional information for use in counseling and they are not part of the public or official records of the institution in which the counselor is employed. Release of information should be pursuant to procedures described in Oregon Revised Statutes. Revelation to others of counseling materials should occur only upon the student's consent.

Counselors must not discuss confidential matters over the telephone. Counselors should insist a request for information be made in writing on official stationery.

The counselor must be provided with adequate physical facilities that guarantee the confidentiality of the counseling relationship.

When a counselor is in doubt about what information to release in a judicial proceeding, the counselor should request, through the Superintendent, a conference with MESD's Legal Counsel to explain the dilemma and receive advice on how to proceed.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 40.245](#)

[ORS 326.565](#)

[ORS 326.575](#)

[ORS 336.187](#)

[OAR 581-022-1510](#)

[OAR 581-022-1660](#)

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (2011); Family Educational Rights and Privacy, 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (2011).

Protection of Pupil Rights, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (2006); Student Rights in Research, Experimental Programs and Testing, 34 C.F.R. Part 98 (2006).

**MESD Policy Cross Reference(s):**

IGBAB/JO - Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities\*\*

IJ - Guidance Program

IM - Evaluation of Instructional Programs

JHDA - Psychological Testing of Students\*\*

JHFE - Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child

JHFF - Reporting of Suspected Sexual Conduct with a Student

JOB - Personally Identifiable Information\*\*

KAB - Parental Rights

IA/IAA - Instructional Goals

KC - Community Involvement