



## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Blue Oak Charter Council supports the importance of protecting the rights of students and families to confidentiality in regards to the personal information shared with Blue Oak Charter School. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a federal law establishing an array of confidentiality rights for students and families. This law is required to be upheld by all school employees. There are significant sanctions and penalties that can be imposed for violating this law. Failure to maintain confidentiality may result in disciplinary action, up to and including release from employment.

All information relating to students, personal information, addresses, contact numbers and progress information is confidential in nature, and may not be shared with or distributed to unauthorized parties. All records concerning special education pupils shall be kept strictly confidential and maintained in separate files.

Confidentiality of student information protects personal information from disclosure. This is particularly true where the wrongful release of information about children and families might also lead to discrimination or cause prejudicial treatment. The confidential provision also protects family security. This may pertain to; personal safety or job security where the release of specific information might lead to loss of employment. Finally, confidentiality needs to be assured for families and students to seek needed services without fear of retaliation, discrimination, prejudicial treatment, or stigmatization. If students or families believe confidential information will not be maintained, they may be less likely to seek needed mental health services, free lunch, exceptional children services, or a host of other critical services.