

Child Advocacy Groups Contact Information

Helpful information can be obtained from the State Department of Education by calling 1-888-212-3162 or visiting <http://www.state.tn.us/education/speced/index.htm>. In addition to the state and local resources available to parents and children, there are many agencies and organizations that offer support, information, training, and help in advocating for persons with disabilities in Tennessee.

A few of these organizations are listed below:

The Arc of Tennessee - <http://www.thearctn.org/>

151 Athens Way, Suite 100, Nashville, TN 37228

Phone: 615.248.5878 or 1.800.835.7077 Fax: 615.248.5879 Email: pcooper@thearctn.org

Support & Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP) - <http://www.tnstep.org/>

712 Professional Plaza, Greeneville, TN 37745

West TN

901-756-4332

jenness.roth@tnstep.org

Middle TN

615-463-2310

information@tnstep.org

East TN

423-639-2464

karen.harrison@tnstep.org

Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee - <http://www.tpainc.org/> 416 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212 Phone: 1-800-287-9636 or 615-298-1080 or 615-298-2471 (TTY) or 615-298-2046 (FAX)

Tennessee Voices for Children - <http://www.tnvoices.org/main.htm>

West TN (Jackson Area)

731-660-6365 phone

731-660-6372 fax

Middle TN

1315 8th Ave South Nashville, TN

615-269-7751 phone

800-670-9882 phone

615-269-8914 fax

TVC@tnvoices.org email

East TN (Knoxville Area)

865-609-2490 phone

865-609-2543 fax

These are only a few of the organizations available to help with information, training, and advocacy. For a more extensive list visit the Tennessee Disability Services -- Disability Pathfinder Database: http://mingus.kc.vanderbilt.edu/t_dir/dbsearch.asp

On the web page, select your “county” and the “service” you desire from the drop-down lists and click “Submit.”

This information is provided as a service to individuals seeking additional avenues for help and information. The Department of Education and the Lawrence County School System do not intend this as an endorsement or recommendation for any individual, organization, or service represented on this page.

Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Lawrence County School System, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent, prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the Lawrence County School System may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Lawrence County School System to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation program; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for football, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.¹

If you do not want the Lawrence County School System to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Lawrence County School System at 700 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464, in writing within 3 weeks of the beginning of the school year. The Lawrence County School System has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

¹ These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908) as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107 -110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by Section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.

Homeless Education

To be qualified for consideration under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, one must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, campground, abandoned building or trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or live with friends or relatives due to the inability to afford adequate housing.

If qualified with any of the situations mentioned above, students may enroll in a school without a permanent address, school records, or proof of immunization. The enrolling school will obtain this documentation. A student may continue attending the home school and receive transportation to the school if it is feasible and reasonable.

For additional information and/or assistance, please contact:

Rachel Counce, Lawrence County Schools Homeless Liaison
700 Mahr Avenue
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
931-762-3581.

Section 504

Section 504 is an Act which prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who:

- o Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity;
- o Has a record of such impairment;
- o Is regarded as having such impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Lawrence County School System recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to educational records. This Act gives the parent or guardian the right to:

- o Inspect and review his/her child's educational records;
- o Make copies of these records;
- o Receive a list of all individuals having access to those records;
- o Ask for an explanation of any item in the records;
- o Ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights;
- o A hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

If there are questions, concerns, or a complaint, please contact the 504 Coordinator:

Judy Benson
700 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
931-762-5251

State Statutory Rights of Parents and Students

In accordance with Chapter 644 of the Public Acts of 2016, LCSS annually compiles a list of state laws related to the rights of student and their parents or legal guardians. The link below provides a summary of the state laws that provide explicit rights to parents, legal guardians, or students does not include all the legal protections and privileges afforded to students and their parents or legal guardians.

[State Statutory Rights of Parents and Students](#)

Statement of Non-Discrimination

The Lawrence County School System does not discriminate in employment or educational opportunity on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, veteran, or other protected status covered by federal, state, or local law.

Lawrence County Schools appoints coordinators to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations including the U.S. Department of Education regulations implementation, including: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Vocational Education Programs Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin, Sex and Handicap. U.S. Department of Justice regulations implementing: Title II of the American Disabilities Act of 1990.

Contact information for coordinator is provided below for anyone who needs assistance or has a complaint.

Title VI & Title IX Coordinator: Jamie Glass
700 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
931-762-3581

IDEA, Title II, & ADA Coordinators: Judy Benson & Kim Martin
700 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
931-762-5251

504 Coordinator: Judy Benson
700 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
931-762-5251

Teacher Information

Parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and any paraprofessionals providing support to the child. Parents must be provided, upon request, state qualifications and licensure criteria for teachers and paraprofessionals.

For additional information, concerns, or complaints, contact the Human Resource Supervisor:

Shannon Snider
700 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
931-762-3581

