

ROUTINE USE and DISCLOSURE of STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

It is important for parents and guardians to understand how the personal information of their child(ren) is routinely (i.e., without further notification) shared within the school system, for what purpose it will be used, and who will receive the information.

Under the authority of the [Education Act](#), the Thames Valley District School Board collects, uses and shares personal information from, and about, parents/guardians/students for the purposes of planning, administering, and delivering educational programs and services. We are required by law to report some information to the Ministry of Education.

In addition to the Education Act, the [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (MFIPPA) governs the sharing/disclosure of personal information. Under the MFIPPA, personal information may be used or disclosed by the TVDSB:

- For the purpose for which it was obtained or a consistent purpose (a purpose consistent with the reason collected)
- With board officers or employees who need access to the information in the performance of their duties, if necessary and proper, in the discharge of the board's authorized functions
- To comply with legislation, a court order or subpoena or to aid in a law enforcement investigation conducted by a law enforcement agency
- In compelling circumstances affecting health or safety of staff or students, such as reporting to the Children's Aid Society regarding child protection matters.

The following are routine uses and/or disclosures of student personal information:

The *Education Act* requires the school principal to maintain an **Ontario Student Record (OSR)** for each student attending school. The OSR is a record of a student's educational history and progress through school in Ontario and follows the student when they transfer from one school to another within the province. Under the *Education Act*, the Ministry of Education sets the guidelines for how the Ontario Student Record is to be managed. The school board adheres to the Ministry's regulations as well as its own Ontario Student Record procedure. The school principal is responsible for the OSR, which is maintained and secured in both an electronic and hard copy format.

The student's OSR will be used by school and board staff to support the classroom teacher in developing an educational program that best meets the student's needs. Staff working with the classroom teacher or directly with the student may include individuals working in areas such as early childhood education, special education, guidance counselling, student success, etc. Student information, including learning profiles and achievement levels, is shared between staff to design and deliver programming to meet the needs of all students in our schools as they progress through grade levels.

Student information that is collected at registration as well as other data such as attendance, timetables and achievement data is stored in a **Student Information System or equivalent information management system** where school and board staff can access the information needed to perform their duties and report to the Ministry of Education as required. Secondary schools may receive information about pre-registered Grade 8 students in advance of the student attending the secondary school to facilitate the appropriate educational program planning for the

student. Important information used for the transition process is shared for the purpose of a successful transition to high school. Secondary schools may share information about student progress with the student's previous elementary school to support continuous improvement of the elementary school program for all students.

Secondary schools will provide information of potential graduates (i.e., contact information, marks, and transcripts) for the student's post-secondary applications to **Ontario Colleges and Universities** through a secure site.

Information is shared with the **Ontario eLearning Consortium (OeLC)** to facilitate and support students participating in eLearning courses throughout the province.

Where information is shared with external organizations, the organizations will be covered by privacy legislation(s) and/or specific privacy agreements with the board.

Parent/guardian **contact lists** of phone numbers and/or email addresses are used for safety and emergency purposes to facilitate contact during an emergency (i.e., inclement weather or injury) and for safe arrival purposes where a student is absent and the school has not received notice of the absence.

Student information such as home addresses, life-threatening medical emergency information, and accessibility and safety needs, will be released to Southwestern Ontario **Student Transportation Services (STS)** for the purpose of administering the board's contracted transportation services. Personal information facilitates scheduling of school bus services to students for daily transportation and chartered buses and helps ensure the health and safety of students.

Important **medical/health** information may be collected for the purpose of developing a medical emergency plan for the student or for the purpose of administering medication to the student. Information will be shared with appropriate staff to ensure the safety of the student. Student and parent/guardian information may be shared with local health units to support Mandatory Public Health Programs under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*

Information, including health or medical, of students participating in **secondary school athletics** will be shared with the Ontario Federation of School Athletics (OFSSA), Western Ontario Secondary School Association (WOSSA) and the Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) for purposes of school team and student athletes' participation in school sports programs. Student accidents that take place during school or during school-sponsored activities will be reported to the board's insurer. Information shared with the **Insurance Company** includes the name of the injured student(s) and details about the incident as well as the name and contact information of witnesses to the accident.

In case of a medical emergency, student information may be shared with medical responders or the hospital. Information may be used in matters of **health and safety or discipline** and is required to be disclosed in compelling circumstances or for law enforcement matters or in accordance with any other Act.

In keeping with the requirements of the *Education Act* and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, written/signed consent is required prior to conducting **intelligence or behaviour tests**, or prior to the involvement of Psychological, Speech and Language, or Social Work staff.

School boards continually **assess and measure student achievement** and other educational outcomes to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies and programs provided by the school board. Schools and staff from district-level departments and portfolios also collect feedback and information from students to understand their views and experiences at school. Various types of student data (e.g., survey data, perceptual data related to student experiences, assessment information, report card marks, attendance data) are collected, analyzed, reported, shared, and used to improve educational outcomes for all students. This information is used to inform decisions related to classroom instruction, programming, policy, and supports for students. Summary information may sometimes be shared with the Ministry of Education or community partners to support student achievement and well-being.

As directed in the **Anti-Racism Act (2017)** and **Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan**, all school boards **collect identity-based data** about students. Boards are required to inform parents/guardians that these surveys are voluntary and that they can choose not to have their child(ren) participate. Parents/guardians who do not wish for their child(ren) to participate will be provided instructions on how to opt out at least two weeks in advance of the launch of the survey. If parents/guardians have not opted out, students can decide whether they would like to participate.

As directed by the **Ministry of Education** as part of the Safe Schools initiative and the **Education Act**, all school boards must launch a student **school climate survey** to their students at least once every two years. Boards are required to inform parents/guardians that these surveys are voluntary and that they can choose not to have their child(ren) participate. Parents/guardians who do not wish for their child(ren) to participate will be provided instructions on how to opt out at least two weeks in advance of the launch of the survey. If parents/guardians have not opted out, students can decide whether they would like to participate.

When research is conducted by **external researchers** (e.g., university researchers, community agencies, etc.) for their own research purposes, parents/guardians will be given the choice of whether to have their child(ren) participate. If parents/guardians have not opted out, students can decide whether they would like to participate.

Indigenous students are provided the opportunity to voluntarily self-identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. This data is used by the Ministry of Education, by EQAO, and may be used by the school board for planning, resource allocation and/or programming.

A TVDSB-based **email address** will be assigned to each student to support curriculum instruction. Students may use their email address in conjunction with the use of collaboration tools, as age appropriate. As part of TVDSB's commitment to learning, students will be using Ministry approved tools in the classroom such as Google Apps for Education (GAPE), Desire2Learn (D2L), and Microsoft 365. In addition, students may also use Board-approved **applications/software**. Students receive age-appropriate instruction on digital citizenship and the safe use of technology. Use of the internet and social media sites shall be in accordance with the board's Information Technology Appropriate Usage Procedure and the school's Code of Conduct. Student usage will/may be monitored to ensure a healthy and safe online learning experience.

Photographs and video recordings of students, collectively or individually, may be taken by their classroom teacher in school or during school activities as part of their educational program or assessment of learning. These photos and videos are intended to be shared with individual classroom distribution lists and shared only through the private board communication platform,

School Messenger. Students may also participate in teacher-led video conferencing to support the classroom program.

Students participating in **extra-curricular activities** or events where the public is invited or otherwise attends (i.e., field trips, school concerts, school teams) may be photographed and/or reported on by the media or the public. This may result in photos or recordings being posted on social media sites. If photography or video recording is permitted at such events, it is generally not possible for the school or board to control the use of such recordings. It is important that when taking pictures, individuals are respectful of the privacy rights of anyone captured in their recording and to practice good digital citizenship by only posting photos involving other students with permission of the individual or their parent/guardian. The **media**, such as newspaper, television, and radio, may be invited by the Board or a school to attend an event for the purpose of reporting on newsworthy activities such as graduations, student achievements or awards. Media reports may include only non-identifying photos of groups of students. Individual students will only be interviewed or otherwise identified with consent.

Student work may be displayed in the classroom or in school hallways or may be shared with the public through school events such as science fairs, bulletin board displays, writing/colouring/poster contests, community events, fairs, and similar events/locations outside of the school setting. The first name and last initial of the student's name may be printed on work displayed in the classroom; student names will be posted on the back of their work when posted in public areas. A student's first name may be posted near their hooks in elementary schools.

Student information such as name, student number, grade and school will be provided to the contracted **school photographer** for the purpose of providing the school and/or student with a student identification card. Individual and class photos of students otherwise will be used for administrative and archival purposes, in school yearbooks, and will be offered to parents for purchase.

Student names and/or photographs may be printed in **school programs** (i.e., commencement, graduation, school plays, and concerts) or on **academic or athletic awards and plaques**.

Yearbooks chronicle the activities of the school and student body; they are produced for sale, primarily to students, and may be placed in the school library, public library, or made available in electronic format. Student and class photos, snapshots of school events and activities (sports teams, clubs, plays/performances, field trips, and assemblies), writing by students and student artwork may be included in the yearbook along with the student's full name.

Birthdays may be announced over the PA system and/or in classrooms. Elementary class lists with student first names and last initial only may be distributed to other parents for the purposes of addressing greeting cards or invitations in connection with holidays, birthday parties, etc.

Security camera equipment and systems may be used in schools, on school properties and buses to enhance the safety of students and staff, to protect property against theft or vandalism, and to aid in the identification of intruders and persons who endanger the health, wellbeing, or safety of school community members.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the collection, use or sharing of student personal information as outlined above, please speak directly with the school principal or contact Privacy Office at privacy@tvdsb.ca. The above will apply unless an objection is filed with the principal and an alternative resolution can be found. For questions about any activities or events other than those listed here where personal information is used or disclosed, or the consent collected on a student's Parent Portal, please contact the Privacy Office.