

Methow Valley School District Compliance Announcements

Child Find Notice

The Methow Valley School District is seeking young people from birth to age 21 who may need special education services. Special education is provided to those who have concerns with hearing, vision, speech, language development, learning, behavior, developmental delays, health, birth defects, orthopedic or spinal problems, birth defects, autism or any other disabilities. Special services include specialized educational classes, speech and language therapy, physical and occupational therapy, psychological testing, counseling, transportation and any other assistance necessary.

Parents or guardians with children having any of these conditions or problems or needing these services are encouraged to contact special education coordinator Karen L. Fisher at: Methow Valley Elementary School; 18 Twin Lakes Rd.; Winthrop WA 98862-9713; phone 996-2186.

Notice of Availability

Any application and any required policies, procedures, evaluations, plans, and reports relating to the District's special education program are available for public review and comment through the Methow Valley School District's special education program and the superintendent's office. Please contact special education coordinator Karen Fisher at 996-2186 or Dr. Louis Gates, superintendent, at 996-9205 for further information.

Public Participation

The Methow Valley School District welcomes public participation and input regarding the planning and operating of the District's special education program. Please contact special education coordinator Karen Fisher at 996-2186 or Dr. Louis Gates, superintendent, at 996-9205 for further information.

Notification of Rights Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the students' education records. They are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within five school business days after a request is received unless a written explanation for the failure to do so is supplied by the custodian of records. In no case shall the review occur later than 45 days after the school receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or appropriate school official a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write to the school principal or appropriate school official, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The right to refuse to permit the school district to release directory information publicly without the permission of the parents or the student. Directory information is defined as information not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. This information may include, but not be limited to: the name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, date and place of birth, photographs, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, field of study, weight and height of athletes, enrollment status (full-, part-time, undergraduate, graduate), degrees and awards received, dates of attendance, most recent previous school attended, or grade level.

Directory information cannot include student identification numbers or social security numbers.

It is the right of the parent of a student or any student who has attained the age of 18 to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the aforementioned categories of personally identifiable information with respect to that student as directory information. Any such student or parent must notify the District in writing of such refusal within ten days of the publication of this notice. Such written notice should be addressed to: Superintendent, Methow Valley School District No. 350; 18 Twin Lakes Rd.; Winthrop WA 98862-9713.

5) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

U.S. Department of Education
Family Policy Compliance Office
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20202-5920

Notification of Asbestos Reinspections

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, in the fall of 1987 the Methow Valley School District had inspections performed on each of the District's buildings for asbestos-containing building materials. The inspection findings and asbestos management plans have been on file in each school administrative office since that time.

The EPA requires the District to perform reinspections of the asbestos materials every three years. In March of 1999, an accredited management planner reviewed the results of the reinspections and recommended actions the District should take to safely manage each asbestos material in the buildings.

Liberty Bell Jr.-Sr. High School was constructed as an asbestos-free building. Methow Valley Elementary School, after properly supervised and inspected removal of asbestos tiles, is now nearly asbestos-free. All other asbestos materials in the buildings of the District are in good condition, and will continue to be managed in place as recommended by the accredited management planner.

The results of the reinspection are on file in the management plan in each school's administrative office. Everyone is welcome to review these any time during normal school hours, Monday through Friday 8am–4pm. The asbestos program manager, Michael Sadowsky, is available to answer question you may have about asbestos in the buildings through the district office at 996-9205.

Drug-Free, Weapon-Free Schools

Methow Valley School District maintains all school district facilities in compliance with state law as drug-free and weapon-free facilities. No alcohol or tobacco consumption is allowed on District property. No weapons are allowed on District property except for:

Persons engaged in military, law enforcement or District security activities;

Persons involved in a school-authorized convention, showing, demonstration, lecture or firearm safety course;

Persons competing in school-authorized firearm or air gun competitions;

Any federal, state or local law enforcement officer;

Persons, over 18 and not enrolled as students, with concealed weapons permits who are picking up or dropping off students;

Persons, over 18 and not enrolled as students, conducting legitimate business at the school and in lawful possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon, if the weapon: is secured within an attended vehicle; is unloaded and secured in a vehicle; or is concealed from view in a locked, unattended vehicle;

Persons bringing dangerous weapons other than firearms if they are lawfully possessed and are to be used in a school-authorized martial arts class; and

Persons over age 18, or between 14 and 18 years of age with written parental permission, who possess personal protection spray devices to be used only in self-defense as defined by state law.

District Policies and Administrative Regulations

All Methow Valley School District policies and administrative regulations are available for review at the District Office and at each school, at the campus located on Twin Lakes Road. School board policies are also available on the District website, www.methow.org.

Equal Rights Compliance

The Methow Valley School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a disabled person, or status as disabled veteran or veteran of foreign wars or military action. This holds true for all District employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer Kathy Borgersen and/or Superintendent/Section 504/ADA Coordinator Dr. Lou Gates; Methow Valley School District; 18 Twin Lakes Rd.; Winthrop WA 98862, or phone 996-9205.