

Emancipated Students

Students who remove themselves from the care and control of their parents at age 16 or 17 are able to make any decisions that an adult student is permitted to make, including attending school. Their parents are no longer permitted to receive any information, including information about where they are residing, unless the student consents.

A student's decision to remove themselves from care and control of their parents is a serious one and should be treated as such by the student. In some cases, students might "ping-pong" between their parents and other family members -- Thus not be truly removing themselves.

Students should be able to provide information about how they are financially supporting themselves and where they are living. The living arrangements should suggest independence, for example living with a grandparent or older sibling will likely not be evidence of independence.

Principal's Best Practice: Where appropriate, have your staff (teaching and non-teaching) review the list of students who have removed themselves from the care and control of their parents. If parents wish to be informed or involved, ensure the student has signed the appropriate consent. Work together as a staff to protect the privacy of these students. Everyone needs to be vigilant.