

Case 6: What can your family see in your college records?

Content note

This case is about private records. No student should share their own grades, forms, records or family finances, so keep the discussion on Rafa’s situation.

This case explains general rules. It is not legal advice for your situation.

Overview

Students read about Rafa, an 18-year-old in his first year of college whose family wants to help pay tuition and asks for his login. They read an access form, a college FERPA notice and summaries of federal guidance, then sort billing access from access to grades. They then write the question Rafa could send the records office and the smallest access that would help his family.

Before this case

- Students should already be able to:
- find a detail in a short text and point to it
 - put three events on a timeline in order
 - write a complete sentence that answers a question

Objectives

- Students will be able to:
- explain who holds FERPA rights for a student under 18 in K—12

Objectives, continued

- explain what changes at 18 or when a student starts college
- apply the rule to a student who starts college at 17
- write a question for the school office that uses no real records

Materials

- This chapter, one copy per student
- Evidence A and B on half-pages, one set per pair
- The FERPA summary on the key idea page, read aloud
- Colored pencils for the timeline

The task in this edition

Task: Make a “my records, my family” card explaining who holds FERPA rights for a middle-school student and what changes at 18.

Students make: Illustrated card, 4—6 sentences

Pacing

Opener (page 89): 5 min. Short on time: 4 min. Read What happened aloud and skip the opening discussion.

Key terms (pages 90 and 91): 6 min. Short on time: 4 min. Read the key terms aloud. Skip Who is involved.

Pacing, continued

- Look at the evidence (pages 94 and 95):** 10 min. Short on time: 8 min. Students fill in the What it shows boxes only.
- Key idea (pages 96 and 97):** 6 min. Short on time: skip. Read the first paragraph of the key idea aloud instead.
- Sort the evidence (page 98):** 8 min. Short on time: skip.
- Practice (page 99):** 6 min. Short on time: 5 min. Hold the vote and skip Improve a draft.
- Your task (pages 100 and 101):** 15 min. Short on time: 15 min.
- Check your work (pages 102 and 103):** 5 min. Short on time: 3 min. Students answer the Check your work questions only. Score the rubric yourself.
- Questions to discuss (pages 104 and 105):** 8 min. Short on time: 6 min. Use questions 1 and 3 only.
- Talk about this case at home (page 106):** at home.
- Periods:** full chapter 69 minutes; one period 45 minutes.
- Standards**
- RI.6.1** Use evidence from the text to support what it says directly and what you can infer from it.

Case 6 plan, continued

Standards, continued

W.6.2 Write an informative text that explains a topic by choosing, organizing and analyzing relevant information.

W.6.5 With help from peers and adults, strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing or rewriting.

SL.6.1.c Ask and answer specific questions with details that add to the discussion.

SL.6.1.d Review the main ideas of a discussion and show you understand other views by reflecting and paraphrasing.

RI.7.1 Use several pieces of evidence from the text to support what it says directly and what you can infer.

W.7.2 Write an informative text that explains a topic by choosing, organizing and analyzing relevant information.

W.7.5 With help from peers and adults, strengthen writing by planning and revising, focusing on purpose and audience.

SL.7.1.c Ask questions that draw out more detail, and respond with relevant ideas that bring the discussion back on topic.

SL.7.1.d Take in new information from others and change your view when the evidence calls for it.

RI.8.1 Use the evidence that most strongly supports your analysis of what a text says and implies.

Standards, continued

W.8.2 Write an informative text that explains a topic by choosing, organizing and analyzing relevant information.

W.8.5 With help from peers and adults, strengthen writing by planning and revising, focusing on purpose and audience.

SL.8.1.c Ask questions that connect several speakers' ideas, and respond with relevant evidence and observations.

SL.8.1.d Take in new information from others and qualify or defend your view based on the evidence.

D2.Civ.3.6–8 Examine where constitutions, laws and treaties come from, what they are for and what effects they have. In this case: Students examine the purpose of a federal privacy law and how it affects families.

Codes of ethics

- **AACRAO Ethics and Practice:** Standards of professional practice
- **AACRAO Ethics and Practice:** Principles of professional ethics
- **Credo for Ethical Communication:** “We advocate sharing information, opinions, and feelings...” (one of nine unnumbered principles)

Heat map

■■□ Opener (page 89): Medium

Heat map, continued

■■□ Key terms (pages 90 and 91): Low

■■□ Look at the evidence (pages 94 and 95): Low

■■□ Key idea (pages 96 and 97): Low

■■□ Sort the evidence (page 98): Medium

■■□ Practice (page 99): Low

■■□ Check your work (pages 102 and 103): Low

Try it at your school

Find your school's records notice.

- Search your school or district website for its FERPA or “student records” notice
- Find out what counts as directory information and how families can opt out
- Write one question about who can see a record, and ask the front office or counselor
- If you're heading to college, look up its parent-access and authorization forms early

Who to ask: School counselor, registrar or records office, front-office staff

Safety: Never post screenshots of grades, IDs or forms. Talk with a trusted adult about what to share and with whom.

Sources

- U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, “What is FERPA?,” No date listed

Case 6 plan, continued

Sources, continued

- U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, “What is an education record?,” No date listed
- U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, “Must postsecondary institutions provide a parent with access to an eligible student’s education records?,” No date listed
- U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, “Student privacy questions,” No date listed
- American University, AU Central, “FERPA and parent-access guide,” No date listed

Case 6: What can your family see in your college records?

Rafa's parents help pay his college bill, and a family-access form asks whether they should also get information about his grades.

On your own Read What happened and underline what Rafa's dad asks for in the family chat. About 5 minutes.



Rafa and Caio sit on a sofa and look at Rafa's phone. Caio explains something with an open hand.

Your role: You're the one who reads each box on the form before Rafa signs. **New skill:** Read a form section by section before you sign.

What happened

Rafa, 18, has just started college, and his parents help pay his tuition bill. He commutes from the next block and helps at his family's shop after class. At the end of August, the college mailed Rafa a family-access form, but he has not opened the envelope yet.

On Sunday night, his parents ask about the form in the family group chat. His dad wants Rafa's login so the family can handle everything. Rafa is glad to share the bill, but he wants to read the rest of the form first.

Your question: What will this form let Rafa's parents see, and what should he ask before he signs?

Caio, an older friend who rents a room on the block, reads the form with Rafa, not for him. The form has separate sections for billing and for grades. Rafa wants to check the billing box. He wants to talk with his family before he decides about grades.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 5 min.

✂ Short on time: 4 min. Read What happened aloud and skip the opening discussion.

💬 Say this

"Rafa's dad asks for his login. What is his dad trying to help with?" — Hear two answers. Keep the talk about Rafa's family, not students' own.

👁 Watch for

Misconception: Students assume paying tuition gives parents full access. **Listen for:** "They pay, so they get to see it." **Then:** Write "paying" and "seeing" as two columns. Ask which document connects them.

📖 Support

- Read What happened aloud while students follow along.
- Remind students that nobody shares their own records or family rules.

🔥 Heat check

■ ■ □ **Medium.** Students may compare the case with their own family's rules about grades.

Cool-down: Say: "We're working with Rafa's family." Go straight to the form.

Key terms

On your own Read each key term and its example, then write your first guess in the box. About 6 minutes.

FERPA FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, is a federal law about who can see student education records.

En español: FERPA (Ley de Derechos Educativos y Privacidad de la Familia)

In this case: Rafa is 18 and in college, so under the general rule the FERPA rights to his records are his, not his parents'.

Education record An education record is a record directly about a student that a school or college keeps.

En español: expediente educativo

In this case: Rafa's grades and schedule are education records. Section 2 of his form asks whether his parents may receive information about his grades.

Consent Consent is permission a person gives for something specific, such as sharing a record with a named person.

En español: consentimiento

In this case: Rafa's form asks for consent in two separate sections, one for billing and one for grades. He can say yes to one and no to the other.

Who is involved



Rafa

First-year commuter with a family-access form

"My parents help with the bill. The college mailed this form, and the family chat already wants to know if I signed it. I haven't even opened it."



Caio

Reads the form with Rafa, not for him

"I can sit with Rafa while he asks. Being the older friend doesn't make this my decision."

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.

✂ Short on time: 4 min. Read the key terms aloud. Skip Who is involved.

💬 Say this

"Which key term tells you whose rights these are?" — Wait for FERPA. Then ask when the rights transfer.

👁 Watch for

Misconception: Students think FERPA protects only children. **Listen for:** "FERPA is for kids." **Then:** Reread the key idea: the rights transfer to the student at 18 or on starting college.

📖 Support

- Pair students who share a language to explain each term in their own words.
- Show a timeline: middle school, high school, 18 or college.
- **Cognates:** consent (consentimiento), privacy (privacidad), authorization (autorización), exception (excepción), information (información), academic (académico), federal (federal), education (educación).

🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

🔑 Answer key

Any first guess is fine. Students return to it on the My take page.

Your first guess

Before you look at the evidence, what do you think Rafa's parents are allowed to see?

I think Rafa's parents can see ___ because ____.

✎ I think Rafa's parents can see his grades because they help pay the bill.

Notes

This page continues page 90. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 90.

Reading passage

One envelope, two boxes

On your own Read the passage. At each Stop and think box, pause and answer the question in your head or with a partner. About 4 minutes.

Words to know

- **FERPA:** FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, is a federal law about who can see student education records.
- **Education record:** An education record is a record directly about a student that a school or college keeps.
- **Consent:** Consent is permission a person gives for something specific, such as sharing a record with a named person.
- **Decision-maker:** A decision-maker is the person or group with the power to make a particular choice.

The story: The family chat wants an answer

Rafa is 18 and has just started college. He commutes from the next block and helps at his family's shop after class. His parents help pay his tuition bill.

At the end of August, the college mailed Rafa a family-access form. He has not opened the envelope. On Sunday night, the family group chat lights up. His mom writes, "Did the tuition form come? We want to help with the bill." His dad goes further: "Send us the login and we'll take care of everything."

Rafa is glad to share the bill. But he wants to read the rest of the form first. His older friend Caio sits with him and reads it with Rafa, not for him. "Being the older friend doesn't make this my decision," Caio says.

You are at the table too. Your job is to read each box on the form before Rafa signs.

Stop and think. Why might Rafa want to share the bill but wait on his grades?

Reading the form section by section

In Case 5, you read a pay statement line by line. A form works the same way. Rafa's form has three sections. Section 1 is about billing: his parents could view statements and make payments. Section 2 is about academic records: his parents could get information about his grades, enrollment and standing. Section 3 says his choice lasts until he changes it in writing.

Pacing

Reading: about 4 min (417 words). Short on time: read it aloud together, pausing at each Stop and think.

Stop and think

1. **After "The story: The family chat wants an answer":** Why might Rafa want to share the bill but wait on his grades?
2. **After "Reading the form section by section":** What would Rafa give up if he just sent his dad his login?
3. **After "The real law behind the form":** What is one question Rafa could ask the records office?

Reading the form section by section, continued

Each section has its own yes-or-no box. That means Rafa does not have to choose all or nothing. He can check yes for billing. He can wait on grades until he talks with his family.

In Case 4, you learned that a **decision-maker** is the person or group with the power to make a particular choice. Here, the decision-maker is Rafa. **Consent** is permission a person gives for something specific, such as sharing a record with a named person. Giving his dad his login would skip that choice entirely.

? **Stop and think.** What would Rafa give up if he just sent his dad his login?

The real law behind the form

FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, is a federal law about who can see student education records. An **education record** is a record directly about a student that a school or college keeps. Grades and schedules can be education records. Under the general rule, FERPA rights move from parents to the student at age 18 or when the student starts college (U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office, no date listed).

There are exceptions. A college may share records with parents if the student is a dependent for federal tax purposes. But the Education Department says this sharing is allowed, not required. So Rafa should ask his records office what his college does.

? **Stop and think.** What is one question Rafa could ask the records office?

Sources

Real source | U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office | No date listed

What is FERPA?

Real source | U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office | No date listed

Must postsecondary institutions provide a parent with access to an eligible student's education records?

This page continues page 92. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 92.

Look at the evidence

On your own Read the form and the notice, and fill in both boxes for each one. About 10 minutes.

Evidence A | College form

Parent and family access authorization, mailed to Rafa on August 28

Section 1, Billing and payments: allow the person named below to view account statements and make payments. Yes or No. Section 2, Academic records: allow the person named below to receive information about grades, enrollment and academic standing. Yes or No. Section 3: this authorization stays in effect until the student changes or withdraws it in writing.

Look closely: Which section covers billing, and which covers grades? Circle each yes-or-no box.

What it shows

➡ Paying the bill and seeing grades are two separate yes-or-no choices.

One question I still have

➡ What can the college share without Rafa saying yes?

Evidence B | College notice

Annual FERPA notice on the registrar's page

Students have the right to inspect their education records, to request corrections and to consent to disclosures, except where the law allows disclosure without consent. Questions go to the Office of the Registrar.

Look closely: Which phrase tells you the law has exceptions? Underline it.

What it shows

➡ At college, Rafa holds the rights to see and share his records.

One question I still have

➡ When can the law allow sharing without his consent?

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 10 min.

✂ Short on time: 8 min. Students fill in the What it shows boxes only.

💬 Say this

“Put one finger on the billing section and one on the grades section. Could Rafa say yes to one and no to the other?” — Wait for “yes, they are separate.”

👁 Watch for

Misconception: Students read the notice as a promise of total privacy. **Listen for:** “So nobody can ever see his grades.” **Then:** Point to “except where the law allows disclosure without consent.”

📖 Support

- Give each document on its own half-page with the section headings enlarged.
- Read the notice aloud and pause at “except.”
- **Cognates:** consent (consentimiento), privacy (privacidad), authorization (autorización), exception (excepción), information (información), academic (académico), federal (federal), education (educación).

🔗 Stretch

- Ask what Section 3 lets Rafa do later, and why that matters for the choice he makes today.

🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

This page continues page 94. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 94.

Key idea: education records

On your own Read the key idea and the code of ethics, then answer the question in the box. About 6 minutes.

FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, is a federal law about who can see student education records. It gives parents, and later students, rights over those records. An **education record** is a record directly about a student that a school or college keeps. Grades, transcripts and schedules can be education records, on paper or stored digitally. Under the general rule, the rights transfer to the student at age 18 or when the student starts college, at any age. The law calls that student an “eligible student.”

Helping pay tuition does not, by itself, give those rights back to a parent. **Consent** is permission a person gives for something specific, such as sharing a record with a named person. For college records, consent is written and says which record, to whom and for what purpose. Rafa’s form asks about billing and about grades in separate sections. He can say yes to one section and no to the other. He can also change his choice later in writing.

FERPA also has exceptions, which are situations in which a college may share records without the student’s consent. A college may share records with parents if the student is a dependent for federal tax purposes. It may also share them in a health or safety emergency. The U.S. Department of Education says this sharing is allowed, not required, so Rafa should ask his records office what his college does.

Professional standards

Real source | American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)

AACRAO Ethics and Practice: Standards of professional practice

“Protect the legitimate privacy interests of all individuals and maintain appropriate confidentiality of institutional and student education records”

In plain words: College registrars who belong to AACRAO agree to protect students’ privacy and keep education records confidential.

Question: Rafa’s form separates billing from grades. What would the registrar need before sharing his grades with his parents?

Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.

 Short on time: skip this page. Skip this page. Read the first paragraph of the key idea aloud instead.

Say this

“The AACRAO code asks registrars to protect privacy. What would a registrar need before sharing Rafa’s grades?” — Wait for “his consent in Section 2.”

Watch for

Misconception: Students treat the AACRAO code as the law. **Listen for:** “The registrar would go to jail.” **Then:** Say: “The code binds AACRAO members. FERPA is the federal law on education records.”

Support

- Read the quotation aloud. Point out the label: a real source, quoted word for word.

Stretch

- Use the second AACRAO row. Ask what a clear, complete answer to each of Rafa’s three questions would include.

Heat check

 Low.

Professional standards, continued**Your answer**

The registrar would need ____.

→ The registrar would need Rafa to check yes in Section 2, the grades section.

In the news

Real source | U.S. Department of Education (YouTube) | November 7, 2013

Student Privacy 101: FERPA for Parents and Students

The Education Department's own short explainer of FERPA rights and when they move from parents to students.



Real source | U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office | No date listed

Must postsecondary institutions provide a parent with access to an eligible student's education records?

Answers the case question directly, including the exception for students claimed as tax dependents.

Notes

This page continues page 96. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 96.

Sort the evidence

On your own Fill in the diagram to show who decides each question, which rule applies and who can ask. About 8 minutes.

Who actually decides each question: Rafa, the rule or the college? Mark where paying the bill and seeing grades split into two separate decisions.

Who may see Rafa's grades?

Who decides

Rafa, the eligible student, through written consent

Under which rule

FERPA: rights transfer to the student at 18 or on entering college

Who lives with it

Rafa's family, who help pay tuition

Your way in

➡ The registrar or records office explains which form and which exceptions apply

Who may see and pay the tuition bill?

Who decides

Rafa, the eligible student, through written consent

Under which rule

Who lives with it

Rafa's family, who help pay tuition

Your way in

Whose perspective is missing?

Whose view is missing from these documents? What would you ask them?

The view that is missing is _____. I would ask _____.

➡ Rafa's parents' view is missing. I would ask what help they want with the bill.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 8 min.

✂ Short on time: skip this page.

💬 Say this

“For each question on the diagram, who decides: Rafa, the rule or the college?” — Model the grades question together.

👁 Watch for

Misconception: Students name the parents as the deciders. **Listen for:** “His parents decide because they pay.” **Then:** Point to the diagram: his family can ask, and Rafa decides through written consent.

📄 Support

- Let students label each box Rafa, rule or college before they write sentences.

🔥 Heat check

■ ■ □ **Medium.** The missing-perspective question can turn to students' own families.

Cool-down: Keep answers about the characters. No student describes their own family arrangements.

Practice: choose a response

On your own Choose who holds Rafa's rights and explain why, then fix the two marked lines. About 6 minutes.

Rafa is 18 and in college, and his parents help pay his tuition. Under the general FERPA rule, who holds the rights to his education records?

☒ A Rafa does.

☐ B His parents do, because they help pay the bill.

☐ C His parents do, until Rafa signs a form that says otherwise.

Why I chose it

➤ A. Rafa is 18 and in college, so the rights are his. Paying the bill does not give them back to his parents.

Improve a draft

A student's first draft

Rafa, ① your parents are paying so they can probably see everything, that's how it works at most schools. My parents could always see my grades on the portal in high school. FERPA is a privacy law but it's mostly for kids. ② Once you're 18 it doesn't really matter anymore. If you want to keep your grades private you should just not give them your password. Honestly just ask your parents what they want to see. They're helping you a lot so it's probably fair for them to know how you're doing.

Rewrite each marked phrase so it says only what the evidence supports.

Rewrite phrase 1

➤ Paying the bill and seeing your grades need separate permission.

Rewrite phrase 2

➤ At 18, the rights to your records become yours.

Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.

✂ Short on time: 5 min. Hold the vote and skip Improve a draft.

Say this

"Rafa is 18 and in college. Who holds the rights to his records?" — Vote before any discussion.

Watch for

Misconception: Students pick the paying-parents option.

Listen for: "They're paying, so it's theirs." **Then:** Ask what the form would be for if his parents already held the rights.

Support

- Read the options aloud before students choose.

Heat check

■□□ Low.

Answer key

A revised version: Rafa, under the general FERPA rule, the rights to your education records are yours now, because you're 18 and in college. Paying tuition doesn't automatically give your family access to your grades. At schools like the one in the guide, parent access for paying the bill is separate from permission to see academic records. You can decide what to share. Talk with your family about what help you actually want, then ask the records office which form covers that, what it allows and how to change it later. There are exceptions, so ask them which ones your college uses.

Grades 6—8**Your task**

On your own Read the steps and fill in the planner boxes before you start your draft.

Make a “my records, my family” card explaining who holds FERPA rights for a middle-school student and what changes at 18.

Use: The FERPA FAQ summary read aloud and the case quiz.

You’ll make: Illustrated card, 4—6 sentences

Time: 45 minutes

- 1 Find who holds FERPA rights for a student under 18 in K—12.
- 2 Find what changes at 18 or when a student starts college.
- 3 Write who holds the rights for a student who starts college at 17.
- 4 Draw the timeline: middle school, high school, then 18 or college.
- 5 Write 4 to 6 sentences for your card in the Your draft box.
- 6 Add one question for the school office, using no real records.

Show it your way

Write it: Write 4—6 sentences with the frame “Right now, __ can see my records. At 18 or in college, __.”

Say it: Tell a partner in three sentences who can see your school records now and what changes at 18 or in college.

Show it: Draw the picture timeline (middle school, high school, 18 or college) and write who holds the rights at each stop.



Prefer typing? Scan to open the online workspace.

Case 6 | Your task | Grades 6—8 educator edition**⌚ Pacing**

Full chapter: 15 min.

✂ Short on time: 15 min.

💬 Say this

“Who holds the rights now? At 18?” — Draw the timeline on the board and fill in who holds the rights at each stop.

👁 Watch for

Misconception: Cards give middle schoolers the rights.

Listen for: “Students own their records at any age.”

Then: Show the timeline. Parents hold the rights until 18 or college.

📄 Support

- Frames: “Right now, __ can see my records. At 18 or in college, __.”
- Picture timeline: middle school, then high school, then age 18 or college
- Vocabulary cards: record, consent, rights

🔗 Stretch

- Add one question you’d ask the school office about who can see your records.

📋 Standards

Common Core, grade 6: RI.6.1; W.6.2; W.6.5; SL.6.1.c; SL.6.1.d.

Common Core, grade 7: RI.7.1; W.7.2; W.7.5; SL.7.1.c; SL.7.1.d.

Common Core, grade 8: RI.8.1; W.8.2; W.8.5; SL.8.1.c; SL.8.1.d.

C3 Framework: D2.Civ.3.6–8.

The Case plan sheet gives each code in plain words.

Your task, continued

Right now, in K—12

Right now, ___ hold the rights.

→ Right now, my parents hold the rights.

At 18 or in college

→ The rights transfer to the student.

A student starts college at 17. Who holds the rights?

→ The student does, because starting college transfers the rights at any age.

Your draft

Your card, 4 to 6 sentences

Right now, ___ can see my records. At 18 or in college, ___.

→ Right now, my parents hold the FERPA rights to my school records. They can see my records and have some say over who else can. At 18 or when I start college, the rights transfer to me. Then I decide what to share, but the law has some exceptions. My question for the office: who can see my records now?

This page continues page 100.

→ Answer key

A strong response:

- States that parents hold the rights for students under 18 in K—12
- Explains the transfer at 18 or college
- Includes a question for the school office
- Contains no real student information

What to notice in the sample:

1. States the rule.
2. Explains the transfer.

Check your work

On your own Answer the Check your work questions, mark your level in each rubric row and write one change you made. About 5 minutes.

Does your card say that parents hold the rights for students under 18 in K—12?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Does it explain what changes at 18 or in college?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Does it include a question for the school office?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Does it leave out real student information?	☒ Yes ☐ No

How your work is scored

Mark one box in each row.

Skill	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Advanced
Evidence	☐ No source cited.	☐ Refers to “privacy law” generally.	☐ Cites the transfer rule and the separate-access guide.	☐ Cites both and notes that exceptions exist.
Reasoning	☐ States the rule backwards.	☐ Gets the transfer right but merges billing and grades.	☐ Separates paying from permission correctly.	☐ Explains why least access is a reasonable choice.
Audience & purpose	☐ Tells Rafa what to do.	☐ Gives advice without a next step.	☐ Leaves the decision with Rafa and names the records office.	☐ Respects Rafa’s family relationship while protecting his choice.
Revision	☐ No change.	☐ Fixes one fact.	☐ Fixes the rule and adds a next step.	☐ Explains why each correction matters for Rafa’s decision.

Pacing

Full chapter: 5 min.

 Short on time: 3 min. Students answer the Check your work questions only. Score the rubric yourself.

Say this

“Mark your level honestly. Then make one change and say why.” — Ask for one corrected rule or one added question for the records office.

Watch for

Misconception: Students leave an absolute claim in place. **Listen for:** “Parents can never see grades.” **Then:** Point to the Evidence row. Ask them to add that exceptions exist.

Heat check

 Low.

Answer key

How to assess: The educator checks the card for an accurate transfer rule, a real question for the office and no personal information.

Proficient looks like:

- **Evidence:** Cites the transfer rule and the separate-access guide.
- **Reasoning:** Separates paying from permission correctly.
- **Audience & purpose:** Leaves the decision with Rafa and names the records office.
- **Revision:** Fixes the rule and adds a next step.

[illegible]

Questions to discuss

On your own Write a short answer to each question, then complete the sentence frames below. About 8 minutes.

- 1 What is the smallest amount of access that would give Rafa the help he wants from his family?

➤ Rafa could say yes to billing and no to grades. That lets his family pay without seeing his grades.

- 2 Why might Rafa want to talk with his family before he checks the box for grades?

➤ So his family knows why he is choosing. Talking first can keep them from feeling shut out.

- 3 Someone says, “Parents can never see college records.” How would you revise that claim after reading this case?

➤ Parents usually need the student’s permission to see college records, but there are exceptions.

My take

I think Rafa should ___ because ___.

➤ I think Rafa should say yes to billing because that is the help his family asked for.

The evidence that changed my first guess is ___.

➤ The evidence that changed my first guess is the form. Billing and grades are separate boxes.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 8 min.

✂ Short on time: 6 min. Use questions 1 and 3 only.

💬 Say this

“Answer with a detail from the form or the notice, not from your own family.” — Post the question numbers and hear one answer per question.

➤ Stretch

- Ask what Rafa could share with his family in a conversation, without signing any form.
- Going further: Compare FERPA’s general rule with American University’s parent-access process. Which parts come from the federal law, and which come from one university’s forms?
- Going further: What might a student and a family member who pays the bill each misunderstand about access? Write wording that makes the separate permissions clear without promising total secrecy.
- Going further: Draw two permission guides for a sample student: a flowchart and a short conversation. Test both with a reader who does not know this case.
- Going further: Search your school or district website for its FERPA or “student records” notice. Then write one question about who can see a record, and ask the front office or a counselor. If you are heading to college, look up its parent-access and authorization forms early.
- Find your own school’s FERPA notice and summarize what it says about directory information and opting out
- Compare FERPA with your state’s student-privacy law, if it has one

My take, continued

One question I still have is ___.

➤ One question I still have is which exceptions Rafa's college uses.

Notes

[illegible]

This page continues page 104.

Heat check

Question 2: Medium. Students may describe their own family's rules about grades or money.

Cool-down: Say: “We’re talking about Rafa’s family, not ours.” Return to what the chat shows his family asked for.

Talk about this case at home

Case 6: What can your family see in your college records?

In this case, Rafa's parents help pay his college bill, and a form asks if they should also see his grades. Your student read the form and a federal privacy rule, then explained how paying the bill differs from seeing grades.

Questions to talk about

- 1 Under the general rule, when do students start to control who sees their school records?
- 2 Why might a college form keep paying a bill separate from seeing grades?
- 3 Who at a college could answer a question about records?

Nobody needs to share personal stories or private information to talk about this case.



See the case online.

Case 6 | Talk about this case at home | Grades 6—8 educator edition

⌚ Pacing

At home: this page takes no class time.

💬 Say this

“Bring this page home, or read it with someone you trust.” — Nobody needs to share their own records or family arrangements.