

Annual Notifications to Parents

Education Yes, Michigan's Accreditation System and the No Child Left Behind Act, which was enacted by the Federal government require school districts to report specific information in their annual reports and to notify parents of their rights to obtain educational information. If you would like any additional information regarding the topics presented, please make your request in writing to Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools, 7166 Main St., Owendale, MI 48754.

Teacher Qualifications: Parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s). If a request for this information is made, the District will provide the type of degree as well as the major and minor that the child's teacher possesses. If the child is receiving Title I Services from para-professionals, a request may also be made for his/her qualifications. To date, 100% of the district's teaching staff has met the necessary federal standards to be considered "highly qualified". In addition to the teaching staff, 100% of the district's para-professionals have met the standards necessary to be considered "highly qualified".

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: Under FERPA, parents and eligible students have the right to inspect and review education records, seek to amend education records, and consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records, except as specified by law. Parents and eligible students also have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office.

Parent Involvement: Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools always welcomes parent involvement. Each school has identified numerous parent involvement opportunities including, but not limited to, parent-teacher conferences, advisory boards, volunteer programs, Special Days and Events, and numerous committee organizations. If you would like a complete listing of these activities, or would like to be a part of one of these activities, please contact the office.

Homeless Children and Youth: It is the District's responsibility to provide services to homeless children and youth. If you are aware of children or youth who are homeless and are not receiving educational services, please contact the office.

Supplemental Services: Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools offer several intervention programs designed to assist those students with unique learning needs. These programs are funded with both state and federal funds. Programs include GSRP, Reading Recovery, Three-Tier Remediation (Math, Reading, Writing), After School Homework Lab and Tutoring, Academic Support, Student Coordinator Services, Odysseyware credit recovery and more. If you would like additional information about any of these programs, including qualification requirements, please contact the office.

Access to Information: The Owendale-Gagetown Board of Education has designated the following student information as Student Directory Information: student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, date of graduation, awards received, honor rolls, or scholarships. Student Directory Information can be accessed from the District through the Freedom of Information Act Guidelines upon written request. Examples of organizations making such requests include post-secondary schools and the military services. If you would like your student's directory information removed from the Student Directory Information file, please make your request known in writing to the Superintendent's Office.

Safe Schools: Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools have established Board Policies and Administrative Guidelines designed to ensure the safety of each and every child. The Board Policies can be accessed in the both offices of the school. The district has also developed a Site Emergency Plan detailing procedures to follow in the event of a crisis situation. All safety drills are posted on the school's website.

Asbestos Management Plan: The Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools have conducted an extensive asbestos survey of the building. Additional information on the school's asbestos policy can be found in the school handbook.

Pesticide Notification: Pesticides are occasionally applied. Parents have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but notice will be provided following such application. Anyone who wants prior notification, must send a written request to the Superintendent's Office at the beginning of each school year.

Drug Prevention: In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board hereby establishes a "Drug-Free School Zone" that extends 1000 feet from the boundary of any school property. The Board prohibits the use, possession, sale, concealment, delivery, or distribution of any drug or any drug-related paraphernalia at any time on District property, within the Drug-Free School Zone, or at any District-related event. Furthermore, the Superintendent shall take the necessary steps so that an individual eighteen (18) years of age or older who knowingly sells, delivers or distributes controlled substances so designated and prohibited by Michigan Statute within the Drug-Free School Zone to another person is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Video Surveillance/Electronic Monitoring: Buildings constitute the greatest financial investment of the District. It is in the best interest of the Board of Education to protect the District's investment adequately. The District has therefore installed video surveillance/electronic equipment on school property in order to protect the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff, visitors and Board property.