The Eastman School of Music welcomes communication from parents and guardians of students. Our aim is to be as responsive as possible within legal guidelines. Our policies of communication about students are both informed and constrained by federal legislation.

**Academic Matters**
Students have access to their grades online; paper copies of grade reports are not sent either to students or parents/guardians. However, parents/guardians may request grades for dependent students by sending a signed, written request to the Registrar’s Office each semester.

**Student Conduct**
Students are encouraged to contact parents/guardians about all disciplinary matters. Students may grant access to their disciplinary files by signing a release. This is a standard option for all students involved in disciplinary action. The Eastman School of Music does not routinely inform parents/guardians about student disciplinary action. Exceptions to this are if:

1. There is a perceived significant risk to the student or to others;
2. A change of status has been put in effect;
3. The severity of the matter warrants notification;
4. A first year student has a change of residence for disciplinary reasons.

**Including Parents/Guardians in Conversations about Alcohol and Other Drugs**
The University supports the idea that students, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and the University are partners with responsibilities for the promotion of a healthy and positive educational experience for students. University disciplinary policies and procedures are designed to promote an environment conducive to student learning and growth while protecting the University community. It is the belief of the University that students benefit from discussions with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) about the effects of alcohol or use of controlled substances on their educational experience.

The University may notify parents/guardians of students, under the age of 21, who have been found in violation of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy. Notification of parents/guardians will occur when, in the opinion of the Assistant Dean for Student Life, a violation is significant enough to indicate a greater level of care may be necessary to support the student. It is our general practice to encourage a student to contact his or her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) prior to the University’s notification, however, there may be circumstances when contact will be initiated more rapidly.

The University of Rochester complies fully with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g. FERPA requires, with certain limited exceptions, that the student’s consent must be obtained before disclosing any personally identifiable information in the student’s education records. One such exception is the disclosure [of grades] to parents of dependent students.

**Health and Counseling**
The relationship between the University Health Service (UHS) providers and the patient/guardian is confidential. Notification of others, including parents, friends, guardians and University faculty and administrators is considered the student’s responsibility, unless the situation is serious and the student is unable to assume responsibility for informing others. Parent/guardian notification and consent will be obtained for students under age 18, as required by law (www.rochester.edu/uhs).

All contact with the University Counseling Center (UCC) therapists is confidential. The fact that a student is using UCC will not be disclosed to any University official or faculty member, or to family, friends, or roommates, without permission of the student, except in very specific circumstances. Those circumstances are limited to instances when a student’s life or that of another person is in danger (www.rochester.edu/ucc).

These policies are part of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Regulations (HIPAA - This federal law regulates how hospitals and physicians can report information about their patients. It has significant impact on our ability to communicate information about students receiving health care while in college. The University of Rochester’s aim is to be as helpful and responsive to students and their families as the law will allow. We have therefore encouraged Eastman personnel (Student and Residential Life, specifically) to make every effort to communicate with or to accompany students in the Emergency Department to provide the extra support and care often needed when students are away from home. Because we cannot guarantee being able to inform families when a student’s health and safety is affected, it is our policy to actively encourage the student to contact his or her family and friends directly and immediately.

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