Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator
Providence Towers, Suite 1125E
5001 Spring Valley Road
Dallas, Texas 75244

SEP 45 2009

Dear Senator Cornyn:

This is in response to your August 24, 2009, to the Department on behalf of your constituents, (b)(6) (Parents). Among other concerns, it appears the Parents are alleging that the (b)(6) (District) violated their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) when it failed to amend information in the education records of their daughter, (b)(6) (Student), in response to their requests and when it failed to offer them an opportunity for a hearing on the matter. Your letter was forwarded to this Office for response because we administer FERPA which addresses issues that pertain to education records.

FERPA is a Federal law that gives parents the right to have access to their children's education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from the records. The term "education records" means those records that are directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution. Enclosed for your information are the FERPA regulations, fact sheet, and guidance document.

This Office responded to the Parents' concerns in a recent letter to them. Enclosed for your information is a copy of our letter. Should you have additional questions about this matter or FERPA in general, you may contact this Office directly at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520
Telephone 202-260-3887

Sincerely,

Paul Gammill
Director
Family Policy Compliance Office

Enclosures