Can parents be informed about students' violation ofalcohol and controlled substance rules? Another provision in FERPA permits a college or university to let parents ofstudents under the age of21 know when the student has violated any law or policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Can a school disclose law enforcement unit records to parents and the public?
Additionally, under FERPA, schools may disclose information from "law enforcement unit records" to anyone - including parents or federal, State, or local law enforcement authorities - without the consent ofthe eligible student. Many colleges and universities have their own campus security units. Records created and maintained by these units for law enforcement purposes are exempt from the privacy restrictions ofFERPA and can be shared with anyone.

Can school officials share their observations ofstudents with parents?
Nothing in FERPA prohibits a school official from sharing with parents information that is based on that official's personal knowledge or observation and that is not based on information contained in an education record. Therefore, FERPA would not prohibit a teacher or other school official from letting a parent know oftheir concern about their son or daughter that is based on their personal knowledge or observation.

How does HIPAA apply to

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In all of our programs here at the Department ofEducation, we consistently encourage parents' involvement in their children's education. FERPA is no exception. While the privacy rights of all parents and adult students are very important, there are clear and straightforward ways under FERPA that institutions can disclose information to parents and keep them involved in the lives oftheir sons and daughters at school.