

FERPA for Faculty and Staff

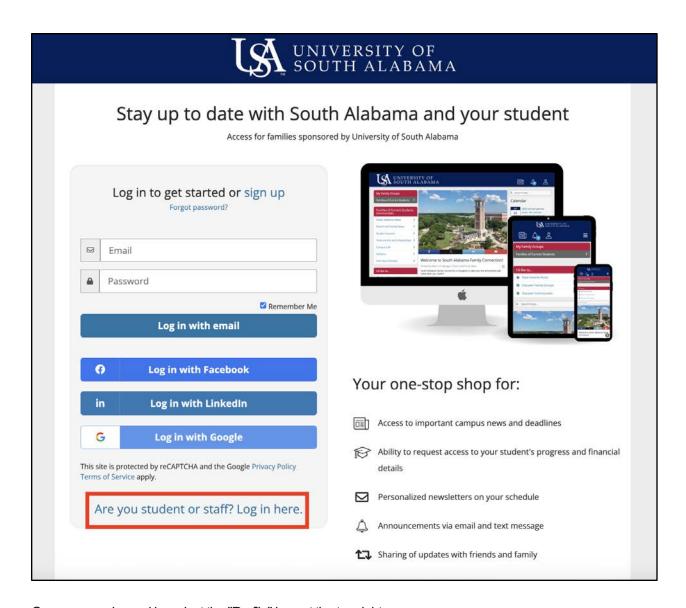
The <u>Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act</u> (FERPA) is a federal law regarding the privacy of student records and the obligations of the institution, primarily in the areas of release of the records and access to these records. Any educational institution that receives funds under any program administered by the U.S. Secretary of Education is bound by FERPA requirements. Institutions that fail to comply with FERPA may have funds administered by the Secretary of Education withheld.

South Alabama Family Connection

The <u>South Alabama Family Connection</u> allows parents and family members to connect with their student(s) by sending them a request to access their records. The day after the request is approved by the student, they will have access to view their information. Before you release any information about a student you must first check that the parent or family member is authorized through the <u>South Alabama Family Connection</u>.

Verifying Student Consent to Release Information

As University of South Alabama faculty or staff you can log in to the <u>South Alabama Family</u> <u>Connection</u> using your University of South Alabama username and password (i.e., <u>single sign-on credentials</u>):



Once you are logged in, select the "Profile" icon at the top right:

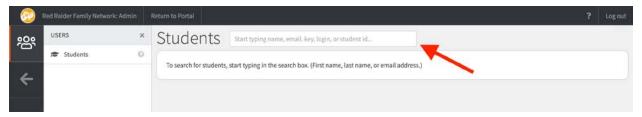


From the drop-down menu, select "Admin" to access the admin area:

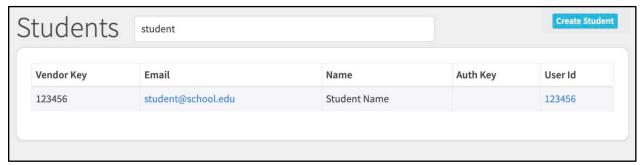


In the "Students" field, enter one of the following to search:

- Student ID Number (preferred)
- Student Email
- Student First Name
- Student Last Name



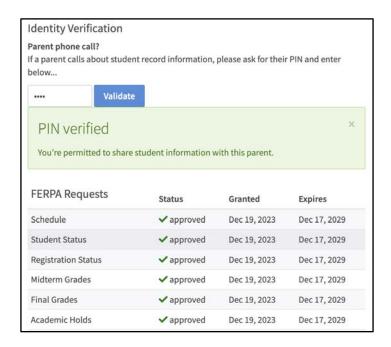
The student's University of South Alabama email address will be displayed. Click on the email address to continue:



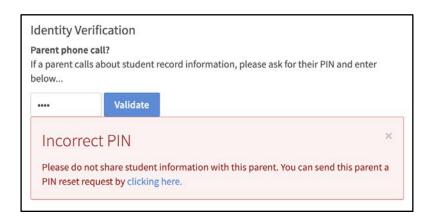
Enter the Validation PIN AND the Parent/Individual's email address:



If the parent or individual on the phone provides you with a correct PIN, a green box labeled "PIN verified" followed by the access granted will appear:



If the parent or individual provides an incorrect PIN, a red box labeled "Incorrect PIN" will appear. Do not release any information to this individual. You may send parents a link to reset their PIN (see screenshot below):



Directory Information

FERPA identifies certain information, called directory information, that may be disclosed without the student's permission.

- O Student's name
- Local and permanent addresses
- Photograph
- Major fields of study
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment status
- O Degrees, awards, and honors received, including selection criteria
- Classification
- o Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- O Weight and height, if a member of an athletic team