



TO: Minor Students and their Parents/Guardians
FROM: Director of Admissions and Records
SUBJECT: Notice to Minor Students and Their Parents/Guardians

The number of students under the age of 18 attending MiraCosta College has increased in recent years. This makes communication between MiraCosta College and minor students increasingly important to insure a positive educational experience.

It is imperative to understand that, when a minor student, becomes a student at any college all rights accorded to, and consent required of, parents transfer to the student (section 99.5 of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). That is, parents do not have the right to inspect the minor student's records or gain access to information related to their attendance at MCC. The minor's parents/guardians must have a signed release from the student before we will discuss or release any information related to the student.

Minor students and their parents/guardians must also understand that they are entering a college environment, which is designed with adults in mind. Thus, the atmosphere of the campus in general, and of classrooms in particular, will frequently reflect an adult population.

Students should be aware that:

- Courses may have frank discussions about sensitive topics
- Audio-visual presentations may be graphic in their content
- Students may be exposed to vulgar language outside of the classroom
- Students may access pregnancy and HIV testing and condoms through the student Health Services.
- Instructors cannot inform anyone, including parents, of last minute class cancellations or early class releases. If classes are released early, instructors cannot sit with underage students while they wait to be picked up.

This is not meant to create undue concern – only to serve as a precaution to allow minor students and their parents/guardians to understand what a college setting is like so that they can have a safe, positive educational experience at MCC.

If MCC units are required for high school graduation, at the end of the current semester the student will need to request that an official transcript be sent to the high school. Students may view their enrollment and final grades through our online registration system known as *SURF*.

Rights and Responsibilities of Students

Student rights and responsibilities are outlined in the MiraCosta College catalog. The catalog is available online through the college website www.miracosta.edu and includes course information and college policies such as grading, course repetition, enrollment procedures and course transfer. **All students are directed to read the section on *Student Rights and Responsibilities*** which includes; Code of Ethics, Disability Accommodation, Drug-free Environment, notice of Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Freedom of Speech, Grievance Procedure, Prohibition of Harassment, Filing a Complaint of Harassment or Discrimination, Smoking on Campus and ***Standards of Student Conduct***. Copies of the catalog are available in the college bookstore for a nominal fee.

For more information you may contact the Admissions and Records Office:

Oceanside Campus (760) 795-6620 or San Elijo Campus (760) 634-7870

