

Number: OSDS 3.00  
Section: Office of Student Disability Services  
  
Subject: Communication between Student and OSDS  
  
Date: July 1, 2007  
  
Policy for: Office of Student Disability Services; Columbia Campus  
Procedure For: Office of Student Disability Services; Columbia Campus  
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Issued by: Office of Student Disability Services

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## I. Policy

The Office of Student Disability Services communicates primarily with the student when the student is 18 years or older. In addition, colleges adhere to a legal requirement called FERPA which protects the rights of the student.

While students may choose to sign a waiver allowing the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS) staff to speak with parents, our staff still communicates primarily with the student.

## II. Procedure

OSDS communicates primarily with the student when the student is 18 years or older. In addition, colleges adhere to a legal requirement called FERPA which protects the rights of the student. While parents or other advocates in a student's life may have communicated on the student's behalf in high school, college is a different environment in which each student needs to grow and develop their self-advocacy skills.

While students may choose to sign a waiver allowing OSDS staff to speak with parents, a waiver does not affect how we communicate. We still communicate primarily with the student. We recommend that you discuss college life with your student if you are interested in knowing about his/her experiences. A student may sign a waiver by coming to 112A LeConte between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm and asking for a waiver. A waiver must be signed by the student for each separate instance of communication with a parent or any party other than the student.