

Emancipated Students

Clay Community Schools is committed to providing a high-quality education and supportive environment to every student, regardless of their individual circumstances. This document provides information for students, families, and staff regarding emancipated students.

Who are Emancipated Students

Emancipated students are individuals that have been recognized by a judge to have all the rights and responsibilities as those of an adult. This must be approved through a formal court hearing and will have the rights and responsibilities to make their own medical, financial, and educational decisions. They are also bound by the same financial responsibilities as an adult and therefore, can be held responsible for any fees or finances incurred through their education.

Working with Emancipated Students

Once a student is recognized as being officially emancipated, the school will work closely with the student.

- Resources guidance will be provided during decision making.
 - The school will recognize student independence, but provide support.
- Necessary staff will be notified these students are the primary decision makers for themselves.
- Expectations will be detailed:
 - Attendance
 - Finances
 - Discipline

Identification

Unlike some other specialized student groups, there is no formal notification process from the courts to the school when a student is emancipated. *It is the responsibility of the student to notify their school administration of their emancipated status and provide official copies of the court order.*

Once notified, the school will update the student's records accordingly.

What to Expect

Clay Community Schools recognizes that emancipated students have adult responsibilities and decision-making authority. We are committed to providing support while respecting their independence. Here's what students and staff can expect:

- **Record Updates:** The school will update student records to reflect the emancipated status.
- **Confidentiality:** The school will maintain the confidentiality of the student's emancipation records in accordance with FERPA regulations. Only necessary staff will be informed of the student's status.
- **Direct Communication:** School staff will communicate directly with the emancipated student regarding all educational matters.
- **Resource Assistance:** School counselors and social workers will provide assistance in connecting students with community resources
- **FERPA Rights:** The student has full control over their educational records, including the right to access them, amend them, and control their release to third parties (including parents/guardians).