MTNA — Music Teachers National Association
NAMTA – Nashville Area Music Teachers Association

Questions and Answers for Parents

About the student information consent form

Your child's music teacher has asked you to complete a Parent/Guardian Consent Form so your child can participate in events organized by NAMTA and MTNA. This document answers the questions parents most often ask about the form and how your child's information will be handled.

If you have a question that is not answered here, please talk with your child's music teacher or contact NAMTA at president.namta@gmail.com.

Why is my child's teacher asking me to sign this?

Your child's music teacher is registering your child for one or more events organized by NAMTA and MTNA. Because your child is a minor, we need your consent before their information — including their name — is submitted to the organization. This form is how we make sure you know what information is being collected, how it will be used, and how you tell us what you are and are not comfortable with.

What information does the form collect?

Only what is needed to run the event: your child's name, age category, the name of their teacher, and the program they will participate in. The form also collects your name and contact information as the parent or guardian, in case we need to reach you. The form does not ask for your child's Social Security number, school details, medical information, or any financial information.

Who will have access to my child's information?

Only the board members, volunteers, event coordinators, and adjudicators of NAMTA who need it to run the event. Your child's music teacher will also have this information, since they are helping with registration. That is the entire group.

Will my child's information be sold, shared, or used for advertising?

No. NAMTA and MTNA do not sell, rent, or trade student information to anyone. Your child's information will not be used for marketing, will not be shared with commercial companies, and will not be given to anyone outside the coordinators of the events your child is registered for.

Do I need to sign a form for every event my child participates in?

Usually just once per program year. The consent form covers all the events and programs listed on it, so you complete it once (typically at the start of the year) and your teacher keeps it on file. If your child later joins a program not covered by your original form, your teacher will ask you to sign an additional form for that program.

Can I say yes to some things and no to others?

Absolutely — and we encourage you to. The form is designed with individual checkboxes so you can authorize specific uses without agreeing to everything. For example, you may be comfortable with your child's full name in a printed program at a recital but prefer only their first name and last initial on social media. Photos, recordings, name use in newsletters, name use on social media — each is a separate choice.

What happens if I don't sign?

Without a signed consent form on file, your child cannot be registered for most NAMTA events. Federal law requires parental consent before an organization collects personal information about a child under 13, and it is MTNA's policy to obtain parental consent for all students under 18. If you have concerns about specific uses — for example, social media — please talk with your child's teacher. You may find that opting out of certain uses on the form addresses your concerns while still allowing participation.

Can I change my mind later?

Yes. You can withdraw your consent at any time by writing to your child's teacher or contacting NAMTA at president.namta@gmail.com. We will honor your withdrawal for all future uses of your child's information. For materials that have already been distributed — a printed program that has already gone out, for example — we cannot always recall them, but we will remove your child's information from ongoing publications and digital materials as soon as we reasonably can.

What about photos and videos?

Photos and audio or video recordings are addressed separately on the form, each with their own set of checkboxes. You control whether your child can be photographed or recorded at events, and whether those images or recordings can appear in event programs, newsletters, websites, social media, or outside publications. You can say yes to some places and no to others. If you say no to photos or recordings altogether, that will be honored.

Why does the association need this now when they did not before?

MTNA and its affiliates are updating their practices to align with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and with current best practices for protecting student information. In the past, many music organizations relied on informal understandings and on teachers to handle registration without a formal consent step. Today, families and regulators reasonably expect clearer, documented consent for how children's information is used — and we agree that is the right approach. This form is how we provide you that clarity.

What is COPPA?

COPPA is the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, a federal law that requires organizations to obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting personal information from children under 13. Because our events collect information about your child (including your child's name), we need your consent under COPPA. Your

signature on the form provides that consent. The same consent also covers older students under 18, following MTNA's broader student protection guidance.

How is my child's information kept safe?

Your child's teacher retains your signed consent form and keeps it secure. Registration information submitted to NAMTA is accessible only to the board members, volunteers, coordinators, and adjudicators who need it for the event. Records are kept only as long as needed and are then destroyed. At events, students are typically identified by an assigned number rather than by name.

Who do I contact with questions?

Please contact your child's music teacher first — they can answer most questions and can pass more specific concerns to NAMTA. You can also reach NAMTA's president directly at president.namta@gmail.com.