

Message from the Chancellor

August 25, 2008

Dear Student,

I am writing to explain an important change to MIT's Student Information Policy.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the MIT Student Information Policy (SIP), there are certain categories of student information that MIT may disclose to the public without prior consent. This is known as 'directory information' and includes such items as your term address and telephone number.

Starting this year, your date-of-birth will be designated as part of your 'directory information'. Please be advised that MIT's release of your date-of-birth will be very limited. For instance, it may be made available for MIT's participation in statistical studies deemed to be of significant value to the Institute and approved by the Chancellor. Your date-of-birth will also be released to the state census. Your date-of-birth will **not** appear in the online or printed directory.

Under FERPA and SIP, a student has the right to suppress the release of any specific categories of his or her 'directory information.' For a complete list of 'directory information' and instructions on how to suppress any of the categories of information, please read Suppressing Directory Information on WebSIS.

MIT takes students' privacy rights and protections very seriously. Please contact the Registrar if you have any that are not addressed by the web page cited above.

Sincerely,

Phillip L. Clay
Chancellor