

AR 5125 Student Records

Definitions

Student means any individual who is or has been in attendance at the district and regarding whom the district maintains student records. (34 CFR 99.3)

Attendance includes, but is not limited to, attendance in person or by paper correspondence, videoconference, satellite, Internet, or other electronic information and telecommunication technologies for students who are not physically present in the classroom, and the period during which a person is working under a work-study program. (34 CFR 99.3)

Student records are any items of information (in handwriting, print, tape, film, computer, or other medium) gathered within or outside the district that are directly related to an identifiable student and maintained by the district, required to be maintained by an employee in the performance of the employee's duties, or maintained by a party acting for the district. Any information maintained for the purpose of second-party review is considered a student record. Student records include the student's health record.(Education Code 49061, 49062; 5 CCR 430; 34 CFR 99.3)

Student records do not include:

1. Directory information.
2. Informal notes compiled by a school officer or employee which remain in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute employee.
3. Records of the law enforcement unit of the district, subject to 34 CFR 99.8.
4. Records created or received by the district after an individual is no longer a student and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student.
5. Grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by a teacher.

Mandatory permanent student records are those records which are maintained in perpetuity and which schools have been directed to compile by state law, regulation or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

Mandatory interim student records are those records which the schools are directed to compile and maintain for specified periods of time and are then destroyed in accordance with state law, regulation or administrative directive. (5 CCR 430)

Permitted student records are those records having clear importance only to the current educational process of the student. (5 CCR 430)

Disclosure means to permit access to, or the release, transfer, or other communication of, personally identifiable information contained in student records to any party, except the party that provided or created the record, by any means including oral, written or electronic. (34 CFR 99.3)

Access means a personal inspection and review of a record, or an accurate copy of a record or receipt of an accurate copy of a record, or an oral description or communication of a record, and a request to release a copy of any record. (Education Code 49061)

Personally identifiable information includes but is not limited to: (34 CFR 99.3)

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1. The student's name.
2. The name of the student's parent/guardian or other family members.
3. The address of the student or student's family.
4. A personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record (e.g., fingerprints, retina and iris patterns, voiceprints, DNA sequence, facial characteristics, and handwriting).
5. Other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name.
6. Other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty.
7. Information requested by a person who the district reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the student record relates.

Adult student is a person who is or was enrolled in school and who is at least 18 years of age. (5 CCR 430)

Parent/guardian means a natural parent, an adopted parent, legal guardian, surrogate parent, or foster parent. (Education Code 49061, 56050, 56055)

Legitimate educational interest is an interest held by any school official, or employee, contractor, or consultant whose official duties, responsibilities, or contractual obligations to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require access to information contained in student records.

School officials and employees are officials or employees, including teachers, whose duties and responsibilities to the district, whether routine or as a result of special circumstances, require access to student records. (34 CFR 99.21)

Contractor or consultant is anyone with a formal written agreement or contract with the district regarding the provision of services or functions outsourced by the district. Contractor or consultant shall not include a volunteer or other party. (Education Code 49076)

Custodian of records is the employee responsible for the security of student records maintained by the district and for devising procedures for assuring that access to such records is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

County placing agency means the county social service department or county probation department. (Education Code 49061)

Persons Granted Absolute Access

In accordance with law, absolute access to any student records shall be granted to:

1. Parents/guardians of students younger than age 18 years, including the parent who is not the student's custodial parent. (Education Code 49069; Family Code 3025)

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2. An adult student, or a student under the age of 18 years who attends a postsecondary institution, in which case the student alone shall exercise rights related to the student's records and grant consent for the release of records. (34 CFR 99.3, 99.5)
3. Parents/guardians of an adult student with disabilities who is age 18 years or older and has been declared incompetent under state law. (Education Code 56041.5)

Access for Limited Purpose/Legitimate Educational Interest

The following persons or agencies shall have access to those particular records that are relevant to their legitimate educational interest or other legally authorized purpose.

1. Parents/guardians of a dependent child as defined under 26 USC 152. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
2. Students who are age 16 or older or who have completed the 10th grade. (Education Code 49076)
3. School officials and employees, consistent with the definition provided in the section "Definitions" above. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
4. Members of a school attendance review board (SARB) appointed pursuant to Education Code 48321, who are authorized representatives of the district and any volunteer aide age 18 or older who has been investigated, selected, and trained by the SARB to provide follow-up services to a referred student. (Education Code 49076)
5. Officials and employees of other public schools, school systems, or postsecondary institutions where the student intends or is directed to enroll, including local, county, or state correctional facilities where educational programs leading to high school graduation are provided, or where the student is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)

Unless the annual parent/guardian notification issued pursuant to Education Code 48980 includes a statement that the district may disclose students' personally identifiable information to officials of another school, school system, or postsecondary institution where the student seeks or intends to enroll, the Superintendent or designee shall, when such a disclosure is made, make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian or adult student at the last known address, provide a copy of the record that is disclosed, and give the parent/guardian or adult student an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the record. (34 CFR 99.34)

6. Federal, state, and local officials, as needed for an audit, evaluation, or compliance with, a state or federally funded education program and in accordance with a written agreement developed pursuant to 34 CFR 99.35. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.3, 99.31, 99.35)
7. Any county placing agency acting as an authorized representative of a state or local educational agency which is required to audit or evaluate a state or federally supported education program pursuant to item #6 above. (Education Code 49076)
8. Any person, agency, or organization authorized in compliance with a court order or lawfully issued subpoena. (Education Code 49077; 5 CCR 435; 34 CFR 99.31)

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Unless otherwise instructed by the court, the Superintendent or designee shall, prior to disclosing a record pursuant to a court order or subpoena, give the parent/guardian or adult student at least three days' notice of the name of the requesting agency and the specific record requested, if lawfully possible within the requirements of the judicial order. (Education Code 49077; 5 CCR 435; 34 CFR 99.31)

9. Any district attorney who is participating in or conducting a truancy mediation program or participating in the presentation of evidence in a truancy petition. (Education Code 49076)
10. A district attorney's office for consideration against a parent/guardian for failure to comply with compulsory education laws. (Education Code 49076)
11. Any probation officer, district attorney, or counsel of record for a student who is a minor for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation or an investigation in regards to declaring the minor a ward of the court or involving a violation of a condition of probation, subject to evidentiary rules specified in Welfare and Institutions Code 701. (Education Code 49076)

When disclosing records for these purposes, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain written certification from the recipient of the records that the information will not be disclosed to another party without prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or the holder of the student's educational rights, unless specifically authorized by state or federal law. (Education Code 49076)

12. Any judge or probation officer for the purpose of conducting a truancy mediation program for a student or for the purpose of presenting evidence in a truancy petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 681. (Education Code 49076)

In such cases, the judge or probation officer shall certify in writing to the Superintendent or designee that the information will be used only for truancy purposes. Upon releasing student information to a judge or probation officer, the Superintendent or designee shall inform, or provide written notification to, the student's parent/guardian within 24 hours. (Education Code 49076)

13. A foster family agency with jurisdiction over currently enrolled or former student; short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a student; or a caregiver who has direct responsibility for the care of a student, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or nonrelated extended family member, or a resource family, as defined. (Education Code 49076)

Such individuals shall have access to the student's current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, online communication on platforms established by schools for students and parents/guardians, and any individualized education program or Section 504 plan developed and maintained by the district. (Education Code 49069.3)

14. A student age 14 years or older who is both a homeless student and an unaccompanied minor as defined in 42 USC 11434a. (Education Code 49076).
15. An individual who completes items #1-4 of the caregiver's authorization affidavit pursuant to Family Code 6552 and signs the affidavit for the purpose of enrolling a minor in school. (Education Code 49076)
16. A caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency or tribal organization that has legal responsibility in accordance with state or tribal law for the care and protection of a

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student, provided that the individual is authorized by the agency or organization to receive the records and the information requested is directly related to providing assistance to address the student's educational needs. (Education Code 49076; 20 USC 1232(g))

17. Appropriate law enforcement authorities, in circumstances where Education Code 48902 requires that the district provide special education and disciplinary records of a student with disabilities who is suspended or expelled for committing an act violating Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902, 49076)

When disclosing such records, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain written certification by the recipient of the records as described in item #11 above. (Education Code 49076)

18. Designated peace officers or law enforcement agencies in cases where the district is authorized by law to assist law enforcement in investigations of suspected criminal conduct or kidnapping and a written parental consent, lawfully issued subpoena, or court order is submitted to the district, or information is provided to it indicating that an emergency exists in which the student's information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. (Education Code 49076.5)

In such cases, the Superintendent or designee shall provide information about the identity and location of the student as it relates to the transfer of that student's records to another public school district in California or any other state or to a California private school. (Education Code 49076.5)

When disclosing records for the above purposes, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain the necessary documentation to verify that the person, agency, or organization is a person, agency, or organization that is permitted to receive such records.

Any person, agency, or organization granted access is prohibited from releasing information to another person, agency, or organization without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student unless specifically allowed by state law or the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (Education Code 49076)

In addition, the parent/guardian or adult student may provide written consent for access to be granted to persons, agencies, or organizations not afforded access rights by law. The written consent shall specify the records to be released and the party or parties to whom they may be released. (Education Code 49061, 49075)

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student may consent to the release of records to others. Either parent/guardian may grant consent if both parents/guardians notify the district, in writing, that such an agreement has been made. (Education Code 49061)

Discretionary Access

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee information may be released from a student's records to the following:

1. Appropriate persons, including parents/guardians of a student, in an emergency if the health and safety of the student or other persons are at stake. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.32, 99.36)

When releasing information to any such appropriate person, the Superintendent or designee shall record information about the threat to the health or safety of the student or any other person that

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formed the basis for the disclosure and the person(s) to whom the disclosure was made. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.32)

2. Accrediting associations in order to carry out their accrediting functions. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
3. Under the conditions specified in Education Code 49076 and 34 CFR 99.31, organizations conducting studies on behalf of educational institutions or agencies for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction, provided that: (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31)
 - a. The study is conducted in a manner that does not permit personal identification of students or parents/guardians by individuals other than representatives of the organization who have legitimate interests in the information.
 - b. The information is destroyed when no longer needed for the purposes for which the study is conducted.
 - c. The district enters into a written agreement with the organization that complies with 34 CFR 99.31.
4. Officials and employees of private schools or school systems where the student is enrolled or intends to enroll, subject to the rights of parents/guardians as provided in Education Code 49068 and in compliance with 34 CFR 99.34. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.34)
5. Local health departments operating countywide or regional immunization information and reminder systems and the California Department of Public Health, unless the parent/guardian has requested that no disclosures of this type be made. (Health and Safety Code 120440)
6. Contractors and consultants having a legitimate educational interest based on services or functions which have been outsourced to them through a formal written agreement or contract with the district, excluding volunteers or other parties. (Education Code 49076)

When disclosing records for the above purposes, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain the necessary documentation to verify that the person, agency, or organization is a person, agency, or organization that is permitted to receive such records.

Any person, agency, or organization granted access is prohibited from releasing information to another person, agency, or organization without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student unless specifically allowed by state law or the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (Education Code 49076)

De-identification of Records

When authorized by law for any program audit, educational research, or other purpose, the Superintendent or designee may release information from a student record without prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student after the removal of all personally identifiable information. Prior to releasing such information, the Superintendent or designee shall make a reasonable determination that the student's identity is not personally identifiable, whether through single or multiple releases and taking into account other reasonably available information. (Education Code 49074, 49076; 20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR 99.31)

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Process for Providing Access to Records

Student records shall be maintained in a central file at the school attended by the student or, when records are maintained at different locations, a notation shall be placed in the central file indicating where other records may be found. Parents/guardians shall be notified of the location of student records if not centrally located. (Education Code 49069; 5 CCR 433)

The custodian of records shall be responsible for the security of student records and shall ensure that access is limited to authorized persons. (5 CCR 433)

The custodian of records shall develop reasonable methods, including physical, technological, and administrative policy controls, to ensure that school officials and employees obtain access to only those student records in which they have legitimate educational interests. (34 CFR 99.31)

To inspect, review, or obtain copies of student records, authorized persons shall submit a request to the custodian of records. Prior to granting the request, the custodian of records shall authenticate the individual's identity. For any individual granted access based on a legitimate educational interest, the request shall specify the interest involved.

When required by law, a student's parent/guardian or an adult student shall provide written, signed, and dated consent before the district discloses the student record. Such consent may be given through electronic means in those cases where it can be authenticated. The district's consent form shall specify the records that may be disclosed, state the purpose of the disclosure, and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. Upon request by the parent/guardian or adult student, the district shall provide a copy of the records disclosed. (34 CFR 99.30)

If the parent/guardian or adult student refuses to provide written consent for the release of student information, the Superintendent or designee shall not release the information, unless it is otherwise subject to release based on a court order or a lawful subpoena.

Within five business days following the date of request, the authorized person shall be granted access to inspect, review, and obtain copies of student records during regular school hours. (Education Code 49069)

Qualified certificated personnel shall be available to interpret records when requested. (Education Code 49069)

The custodian of records or the Superintendent or designee shall prevent the alteration, damage, or loss of records during inspection. (5 CCR 435)

Access Log

A log shall be maintained for each student's record which lists all persons, agencies, or organizations requesting or receiving information from the record and the legitimate educational interest of the requester. (Education Code 49064)

In every instance of inspection by persons who do not have assigned educational responsibility, the custodian of records shall make an entry in the log indicating the record inspected, the name of the person granted access, the reason access was granted, and the time and circumstances of inspection. (5 CCR 435)

The log may include requests for access to records by:

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1. Parents/guardians or adult students.
2. Students who are 16 years of age or older or who have completed the 10th grade.
3. Parties obtaining district-approved directory information.
4. Parties who provide written parental consent, in which case the consent notice shall be filed with the record pursuant to Education Code 49075.
5. School officials and employees who have a legitimate educational interest.
6. Law enforcement personnel seeking to enforce immigration laws.

The log shall be open to inspection only by the parent/guardian, adult student, dependent adult student, student who is age 16 years or older or who has completed the 10th grade, custodian of records, and certain state or federal officials specified in Education Code 49064. (Education Code 49064; 5 CCR 432)

Duplication of Student Records

To provide copies of any student record, the district may charge a reasonable fee not to exceed the actual cost of providing the copies. No charge shall be made for providing up to two transcripts or up to two verifications of various records for any former student. No charge shall be made to locate or retrieve any student record. (Education Code 49065)

Changes to Student Records

Only a parent/guardian having legal custody of a student or an adult student may challenge the content of a record or offer a written response to a record. (Education Code 49061)

No additions or changes shall be made to a student's record after high school graduation or permanent departure, other than routine updating, unless required by law or with prior consent of the parent/guardian or adult student. (Education Code 49062.5, 49070; 5 CCR 437)

Any request to change a student's legal name in the student's mandatory permanent student record shall be accompanied with appropriate documentation.

Any challenge to the content of a student's record shall be filed in accordance with the process specified in AR 5125.3 – Challenging Student Records. (Education Code 49070)

Retention and Destruction of Student Records

All anecdotal information and assessment reports maintained as student records shall be dated and signed by the individual who originated the data. (5 CCR 431)

The following mandatory permanent student records shall be kept indefinitely: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Legal name of student.
2. Date and place of birth and method of verifying birth date.
3. Sex of student.

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4. Name and address of parent/guardian of minor student.
 - a. Address of minor student if different from the above.
 - b. Annual verification of parent/guardian's name and address and student's residence.
5. Entrance and departure dates of each school year and for any summer session or other extra session.
6. Subjects taken during each year, half-year, summer session, or quarter, and marks or credits given towards graduation.
7. Verification of or exemption from required immunizations.
8. Date of middle school promotion.

Mandatory interim student records, unless forwarded to another district, shall be maintained subject to destruction during the third school year after the school year in which they originated, following a determination that their usefulness has ceased or the student has left the district. These records include: (Education Code 48918, 51747; 5 CCR 432, 437, 16027)

1. Expulsion orders and the causes therefore.
2. A log identifying persons or organizations who request or receive information from the student record.
3. Health information, including verification or waiver of the health screening for school entry.
4. Information on participation in special education programs, including required tests, case studies, authorizations, and actions necessary to establish eligibility for admission or discharge.
5. Language training records.
6. Progress slips/notices required by Education Code 49066 and 49067.
7. Parental restrictions/stipulations regarding access to directory information.
8. Parent/guardian or adult student rejoinders to challenged records and to disciplinary action.
9. Parent/guardian authorization or prohibition of student participation in specific programs.
10. Results of standardized tests administered within the past three years.
11. Written findings resulting from an evaluation conducted after a specified number of missed assignments to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study.

Permitted student records may be destroyed six months after the student completes or withdraws from the educational program and their usefulness ceases, including: (5 CCR 432, 437)

1. Objective counselor and/or teacher ratings.
2. Standardized test results older than three years.

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3. Routine disciplinary data.
4. Verified reports of relevant behavioral patterns.
5. All disciplinary notices.
6. Supplementary attendance records.

Records shall be destroyed in a way that assures they will not be available to possible public inspection in the process of destruction. (5 CCR 437)

Transfer of Student Records

When a student transfers into this district from any other school district or a private school, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the student's parent/guardian of rights regarding student records, including a parent/guardian's right to review, challenge, and receive a copy of student records. (Education Code 49068; 5 CCR 438)

When a student transfers into this district from another district, the Superintendent or designee shall request that the student's previous district provide any records, either maintained by that district in the ordinary course of business or received from a law enforcement agency, regarding acts committed by the transferring student that resulted in the student's suspension or expulsion. (Education Code 48201)

When a student transfers from this district to another school district or to a private school, the Superintendent or designee shall forward a copy of the student's *mandatory permanent record* within 10 school days of the district's receipt of the request for the student's records. The original record or a copy shall be retained permanently by this district. If the transfer is to another California public school, the student's entire *mandatory interim record* shall also be forwarded. If the transfer is out of state or to a private school, the *mandatory interim record* may be forwarded. *Permitted student records* may be forwarded to any other district or private school. (Education Code 48918, 49068; 5 CCR 438)

Upon receiving a request from an admitting school for a student's records, the district shall also forward any expulsion order and the causes for the expulsion. (Education Code 48918)

Upon receiving a request from a county placing agency to transfer a student in foster care out of a district school, the Superintendent or designee shall transfer the student's records to the next educational placement within two business days. (Education Code 49069.5)

All student records shall be updated before they are transferred. (5 CCR 438)

Student records shall not be withheld from the requesting district because of any charges or fees owed by the student or parent/guardian. (5 CCR 438)

If the district is withholding grades, diploma, or transcripts from the student because of damage or loss of school property, this information shall be sent to the requesting district along with the student's records.

Notification of Parents/Guardians

Upon any student's initial enrollment, and at the beginning of each school year thereafter, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians and eligible students, in writing, of their rights related to student records. If 15 percent or more of the students enrolled in the district speak a single primary

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language other than English, then the district shall provide these notices in that language. Otherwise, the district shall provide these notices in the student's home language insofar as practicable. The district shall effectively notify parents/guardians or eligible students with disabilities. (Education Code 49063, 48985; 34 CFR 99.7)

The notice shall include: (Education Code 49063; 34 CFR 99.7, 99.34)

1. The types of student records kept by the district and the information contained therein.
2. The title(s) of the official(s) responsible for maintaining each type of record.
3. The location of the log identifying those who request information from the records.
4. District criteria for defining school officials and employees and for determining legitimate educational interest.
5. District policies for reviewing and expunging student records.
6. The right to inspect and review student records and the procedures for doing so.
7. The right to challenge and the procedures for challenging the content of a student record that the parent/guardian or student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.
8. The cost, if any, charged for duplicating copies of records.
9. The categories of information defined as directory information pursuant to Education Code 49073.
10. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records except when disclosure without consent is authorized by law.
11. Availability of the curriculum prospectus developed pursuant to Education Code 49091.14 containing the titles, descriptions, and instructional aims of every course offered by the school.
12. Any other rights and requirements set forth in Education Code 49060-49085, and the right of parents/guardians to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by the district to comply with 20 USC 1232g.
13. A statement that the district forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that request the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment.

In addition, the annual parental notification shall include a statement that a student's citizenship status, immigration status, place of birth, or any other information indicating national origin will not be released without parental consent or a court order.

Updating Name and/or Gender of Former Students

When a former student submits a state-issued driver's license, birth certificate, passport, social security card, court order, or other government-issued documentation demonstrating that the former student's legal name and/or gender has changed, the district shall update the former student's records to reflect the updated legal name and/or gender. Upon request by the former student the district shall reissue any documents

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conferred upon the former student, including, but not limited to, a transcript, a high school diploma, a high school equivalency certificate, or other similar documents. The district is not required to modify records that the former student has not requested for modification or reissuance. (Education Code 49062.5) If the former student's name or gender is changed and the requested records are reissued, a new document shall be added to the former student's file that includes all of the following information. (Education Code 49062.5)

1. The date of the request.
2. The date of the requested records were reissued to the former student.
3. A list of the records that were requested by and reissued to the former student.
4. The type of documentation, if any, provided by the former student to demonstrate a legal change to the student's name and/or gender.
5. The name of the employee who completes the request.
6. The current and former names and/or genders of the student.

Any former student who submits a request to change the legal name or gender on the student's records but is unable to provide any government-issued documentation demonstrating the legal name or gender change, may request a name or gender change through the process described in Education Code 49070 and AR 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records.

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