



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 26, 2025

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Assessment, School Improvement, and Systems Support

SUBJECT: Federal Obligations for Local School Districts Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is forwarding the information below to local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies, for awareness of federal requirements regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).

The Student Privacy Policy Office at the U.S. Department of Education provides annual notification to LEAs regarding the educational agencies' obligations under [FERPA | Protecting Student Privacy](#) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) and [PPRA | Protecting Student Privacy](#) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98). The [Annual Notice to Superintendents | Protecting Student Privacy](#) was most recently sent in March 2025 to include additional guidance for statutory amendments to FERPA that is not in regulations and other information. This information is in addition to the annual notification to parents, which is required by [34 C.F.R § 99.7](#) for FERPA and [20 U.S.C § 1232h\(c\)\(2\)](#) for PPRA. Student Privacy Policy Office model forms for FERPA and PPRA have not substantively changed since they were last issued. The notification, model forms, and additional information may be accessed on the [U.S. Department of Education Annual Notices website](#).

FERPA and PPRA

FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy rights of parents and students in education records maintained by educational agencies and institutions or by persons acting for such agencies or institutions that receive funds under a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. PPRA affords parents and students with rights concerning certain LEA marketing activities, administration or distribution of certain surveys to students, administration of certain physical

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examinations or screenings to students, and parental access to certain instructional materials.

Resources on FERPA and PPRA, including the Student Privacy Policy Office's online FERPA training modules, technical assistance request process, and U.S. Department of Education complaint process, can be accessed on the [U.S. Department of Education Student Privacy website](#). The federal department also recommends districts sign up for its [periodic student privacy newsletter](#).

Student Privacy Policy Office Resources

In addition to the Student Privacy Policy Office general resources, the U.S. Department of Education highlights the following specific resources that may be helpful.

General guidance for parents on FERPA and PPRA:

- [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment General Guidance](#) – provides plain-language guidance for parents and students.
- [A Parent Guide to FERPA](#) – provides plain-language guidance on FERPA for parents and eligible students.
- Videos: [FERPA's Complaint Process Explained and What Happens When I File A Complaint?](#) – provides a succinct overview of the complaint process.
- Video: [What is the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment or PPRA?](#) – provides a succinct description of PPRA.

Transparency Best Practices

Although not specifically required by FERPA, the U.S. Department of Education encourages local school districts to post on their websites their FERPA and PPRA notifications and policies to improve the transparency of information on student privacy. As local school districts continue to leverage digital technology in classrooms, whether students are learning in person or remotely, the federal education department encourages as much transparency as possible with the school community about the use of such technology, the information shared with online service providers, and the providers' responsibilities regarding the information that providers receive about students. For more information about transparency best practices, please refer to the [U.S. Department of Education LEA website privacy review](#).

Data Security Best Practices

Finally, the U.S. Department of Education recognizes the growing number of local school districts affected by data breaches, cyber incidents, and ransomware attacks. If a local school district is affected by such incidents, the department strongly encourages districts to work with the relevant law enforcement and regulatory entities to respond in an appropriate and timely manner. In addition, the department encourages districts to take advantage of the resources and best practices available on the following websites:

- [Data Breach Scenario Trainings](#) – provides customizable exercises designed around a series of scenarios to use for in-house training and data breach response exercises.
- [A Parent's Guide for Understanding K-12 School Data Breaches](#) – provides parents of K-12 students information to help understand what a data breach means and provides tools and best practices to help navigate the sometimes confusing process of protecting children's data in the event of a breach.

The U.S. Department of Education offers its assistance to local school districts with questions about FERPA, PPRA, and student privacy. School districts may contact the department by submitting questions to its student privacy help desk at FERPA@ed.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments