

Student Privacy Laws

Major Laws that Protect Student Privacy



Law

Key Provisions

FERPA
Family Educational
Rights and Privacy
Act

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect a student's educational record and correct any inaccuracies.
- Schools must have written permission from a parent or eligible student to release a student's educational record.
- Schools may release, without consent, a student's so-called directory information unless a parent or eligible student requests that it not be disclosed.

IDEA
Individuals with
Disabilities Act

- In addition to FERPA, provides privacy protections for students receiving special education services including special education records.
- Schools must inform parents when a student's personal identifying information is no longer needed to provide services, and parents may request that the information be destroyed.

PPRA
Protection of Pupil
Rights Amendment

- Schools must seek consent from parents for minor children to share sensitive information via surveys or evaluations funded by the U.S. Department of Education that deal with any of 8 categories that include: political affiliations, psychological problems, sex behaviors or attitudes, illegal behaviors, religious practices, and others.

CIPA
Children's Internet
Protection Act

- Schools and libraries receiving E-rate discounts on Internet service must implement an Internet safety policy to protect minors from inappropriate content, unauthorized use, and other risks to their safety online.

COPPA
Children's Online
Privacy Protection
Act

- Website operators, including sites that may be used by schools, must seek verifiable consent from a parent or guardian for collection of personal information from a child under the age of 13.