

**APPENDIX S  
PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS  
FOR DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY**

To satisfy their responsibilities regarding the provision of education to students in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, “educational agencies” (as defined below) in the State of New York collect and maintain certain personally identifiable information from the education records of their students. As part of the Common Core Implementation Reform Act, Education Law §2-d requires that each educational agency in the State of New York must develop a

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student's privacy rights under FERPA. Complete student records are maintained by schools and school districts and not at NYSED, which is the secondary repository of data, and NYSED make amendments to school or school district records. Schools and school districts are in the best position to make corrections to students' education records.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent (including but not limited to disclosure under specified conditions to: (i) school officials within the school or school district with legitimate educational interests; (ii) officials of another school for purposes of enrollment or transfer; (iii) third party contractors providing services to, or performing functions for an educational agency; (iv) authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as NYSED; (v) organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of educational agencies) and (vi) the public where the school or school district has designated certain student data as "directory information" (described below). The attached FERPA Model Notification of Rights more fully describes the exceptions to the consent requirement under FERPA).
4. Where a school or school district has a policy of releasing "directory information" from student records, the parent has a right to refuse to let the school or school district designate any all of such information as directory information. Directory information, as defined in federal regulations, includes: the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, grade level, enrollment status, dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. Where disclosure without consent is otherwise authorized under FERPA, however, a parent's refusal to permit disclosure of directory information does not prevent disclosure pursuant to such separate authorization.
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

**B. What are parents' rights under the Personal Privacy Protection Law (PPPL), Article 6**

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A more detailed description of the PPPL is available from the Committee on Open Government of the New York Department of State. Guidance on what you should know about the PPPL can be accessed at <http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/shldno1.html>. The Committee on Open Government's address is Committee on Open Government, Department of State, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, suite 650, Albany, NY 12231, their email address is [coog@dos.ny.gov](mailto:coog@dos.ny.gov), and their telephone number is (518) 474-2518.

**C. Parents' Rights Under Education Law §2-d relating to Unauthorized Release of Personally Identifiable Information**

**1. What "educational agencies" are included in the requirements of Education Law §2-d?**

The New York State Education Department ("NYSED");

Each public school district;

Each Board of Cooperative Educational Services or BOCES; and

All schools that are:

- a public elementary or secondary school;
- a universal pre-kindergarten program authorized pursuant to Education Law §3602-e;
- an approved provider of preschool special education services;
- any other publicly funded pre-kindergarten program;
- a school serving children in a special act school district as defined in Education Law 4001; or
- certain schools for the education of students with disabilities - an approved private school, a state-supported school subject to the provisions of Education Law Article 85, or a state-operated school subject to Education Law Article 87 or 88.

**2. What kind of student data is subject to the confidentiality and security requirements of Education Law §2-d?**

The law applies to personally identifiable information contained in student records of an educational agency listed above. The term "student" refers to any person attending or seeking to enroll in an educational agency, and the term "personally identifiable information" ("PII") uses the definition provided in FERPA. Under FERPA, personally identifiable information or PII includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) The student's name;
- (b) The name of the student's parent or other family members;
- (c) The address of the student or student's family;
- (d) A personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record;
- (e) Other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and Mother's Maiden Name<sup>1</sup>;

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(f) 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; or

(g) Information requested by a person who the educational agency or institution reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

**3. What kind of student data is *not* subject to the confidentiality and security requirements of Education Law §2-d?**

The confidentiality and privacy provisions of Education Law §2-d and FERPA extend only to PII, and not to student data that is not personally identifiable. Therefore, de-identified data (e.g., data regarding students that uses random identifiers), aggregated data (e.g., data reported at the school district level) or anonymized data that could not be used to identify a particular student is not considered to be PII and is not within the purview of Education Law §2-d or within the scope of this Parents' Bill of Rights.

**4. What are my rights under Education Law § 2-d as a parent regarding my student's PII?**

Education Law §2-d ensures that, in addition to all of the protections and rights of parents under the federal FERPA law, certain rights will also be provided under the Education Law. These rights include, but are not limited to, the following elements:

- (A) A student's PII cannot be sold or released by the educational agency for any commercial or marketing purposes.
  - PII may be used for purposes of a contract that provides payment to a vendor for providing services to an educational agency as permitted by law.
  - However, sale of PII to a third party solely for commercial purposes or receipt of payment by an educational agency, or disclosure of PII that is not related to a service being provided to the educational agency, is strictly prohibited.
  
- (B) Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's education record including any student data stored or maintained by an educational agency.
  - This right of inspection is consistent with the requirements of FERPA. In addition to the right of inspection of the educational record, Education Law §2-d provides a specific right for parents to inspect or receive copies of any data in the student's educational record.
  - NYSED will develop policies for annual notification by educational agencies to parents regarding the right to request student data. Such policies will specify a reasonable time for the educational agency to comply with such requests.

- The policies will also require security measures when providing student data to parents, to ensure that only authorized individuals receive such data. A parent may be asked for information or verifications reasonably necessary to ensure that he or she is in fact the student's parent and is authorized to receive such information pursuant to law.
- (C) State and federal laws protect the confidentiality of PII, and safeguards associated with industry standards and best practices, including, but not limited to, encryption, firewalls, and password protection, must be in place when data is stored or transferred.

Education Law §2-d also specifically provides certain limitations on the collection of data by educational agencies, including, but not limited to:

- (A) A mandate that, except as otherwise specifically authorized by law, NYSED shall only collect PII relating to an educational purpose;
- (B) NYSED may only require districts to submit PII, including data on disability status and student suspensions, where such release is required by law or otherwise authorized under FERPA and/or the New York State Personal Privacy Law; and
- (C) Except as required by law or in the case of educational enrollment data, school districts shall not report to NYSED student data regarding juvenile delinquency records, criminal records, medical and health records or student biometric information.
- (D) Parents may access the NYSED Student Data Elements List, a complete list of all student data elements collected by NYSED, at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/documentation/NYSEDstudentData.xlsx>, or may obtain a copy of this list by writing to the Office of Information & Reporting Services, New York State Education Department, Room 863 EBA, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234; and
- (E) Parents have the right to file complaints with an educational agency about possible breaches of student data by that educational agency's third party contractors or their employees, officers, or assignees, or with NYSED. Complaints to NYSED should be directed in writing to the Chief Privacy Officer,

- When appointed, the Chief Privacy Officer of NYSED will also provide a procedure within NYSED whereby parents, students, teachers, superintendents, school board members, principals, and other persons or entities may request information pertaining to student data or teacher or principal APPR data in a timely and efficient manner.

**5. Must additional elements be included in the Parents' Bill of Rights.?**

Services of a third party contractor covered under Education Law §2-d include, but not limited to, data management or storage services, conducting studies for or on behalf of the educational agency, or audit or evaluation of publicly funded programs.

When an educational agency enters into a contract with a third party contractor, under which the third party contractor will receive student data, the contract or agreement must include a data security and privacy plan that outlines how all state, federal, and local data security and privacy contract requirements will be implemented over the life of the contract, consistent with the educational agency's policy on data security and privacy. However, the standards for an educational agency's policy on data security and privacy must be prescribed in Regulations of the Commissioner that have not yet been promulgated. A signed copy of the Parents' Bill of Rights must be included, as well as a requirement that any officers or employees of the third party contractor and its assignees who have access to student data or teacher or principal data have received or will receive training on the federal and state law governing confidentiality of such data prior to receiving access.

Each third party contractor that enters into a contract or other written agreement with an educational agency under which the third party contractor will receive student data or teacher or principal data shall:

- limit internal access to education records to those individuals that are determined to have legitimate educational interests
- not use the education records for any other purposes than those explicitly authorized in its contract;
- except for authorized representatives of the third party contractor to the extent they are carrying out the contract, not disclose any PII to any other party (i) without the prior written consent of the parent or eligible student; or (ii) unless required by statute or court order and the party provides a notice of the disclosure to NYSED, district board of education, or institution that provided the information no later than the time the information is disclosed, unless providing notice of the disclosure is expressly prohibited by the statute or court order;
- maintain reasonable administrative, technical and physical safeguards to protect the security, confidentiality and integrity of PII in its custody; and
- use encryption technology to protect data while in motion or in its custody from unauthorized disclosure.

## **7. What steps can and must be taken in the event of a breach of confidentiality or security?**

Upon receipt of a complaint or other information indicating that a third party contractor may have improperly disclosed student data, or teacher or principal APPR data, NYSED's Chief Privacy Officer is authorized to investigate, visit, examine and inspect the third party contractor's facilities and records and obtain documentation from, or require the testimony of,

any party relating to the alleged improper disclosure of student data or teacher or principal APPR data.

Where there is a breach and unauthorized release of PII by a by a third party contractor or its assignees (e.g., a subcontractor): (i) the third party contractor must notify the educational agency of the breach in the most expedient way possible and without unreasonable delay; (ii) the educational agency mu

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## ATTACHMENT

### **Model Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the [Name of school ("School")] receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the [School] to amend a record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational

interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

[Optional] Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the [School] to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

[NOTE: In addition, a school may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by §99.37 of the regulations, with its annual notification of rights under FERPA.]

[Optional] See the list below of the disclosures that elementary and secondary schools may make without consent.

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the school to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student –

To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1))

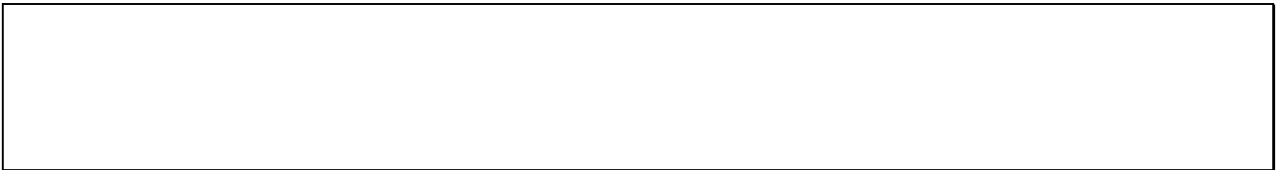
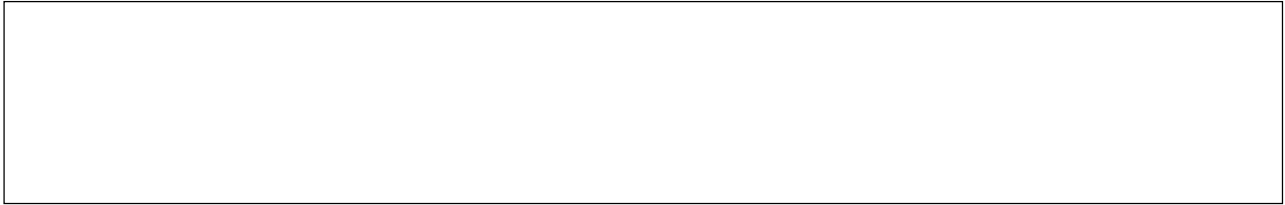
To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2))

To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities,

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such as the State educational agency in the

**APPENDIX 1**  
**Attachment —**



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