

Publication Summary

Forum Guide to Education Data Privacy



The expanding use of student-level data and the dramatic upsurge in education technology tools are transforming education. The use of new technologies in the classroom for instructional purposes holds great promise for personalizing education for students and facilitating instruction. However, education agencies need to responsibly balance instructional needs with privacy protections. The *Forum Guide to Education Data Privacy* was developed as a resource for state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) to use in assisting school staff in protecting the confidentiality of student data in instructional and administrative practices. SEAs and LEAs may also find the guide useful in developing privacy programs and related professional development programs.

Chapter One of the guide includes

- an overview of federal and state privacy laws;
- a discussion of the interrelationships of data governance, data security, and data privacy; and
- information on the roles and responsibilities of individuals within education agencies.

Chapter Two presents eleven case studies that highlight common privacy issues related to the use of student data and offer various approaches for managing those issues. Case study topics include

- using online apps in the classroom;
- responding to parent and PTA requests for student contact information;
- using and sharing student data within a school;
- sharing data among community schools and community-based organizations;
- using data in presentations and training materials; and
- using social media.

The appendices include helpful resources and sample documents from LEAs related to district privacy policies and practices.

The *Forum Guide to Education Data Privacy* is a product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and is available on the Forum website at http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2016096.asp. The information and opinions published in the guide are the product of the National Forum on Education Statistics and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the U.S. Department of Education or the National Center for Education Statistics.