



OFFICE OF PLANNING, EVALUATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

## Student Privacy Policy Office

As 2021 begins, we reflect on the extraordinary work accomplished by educators and students across the country. We want to thank the entire educational community for your commitment and dedication. We also want to remind you that the Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) at the U.S. Department of Education (Department) is here to assist you with any of your privacy-related questions or concerns. Today, we want to bring your attention to some new resources developed by SPPO.

### New Videos on the FERPA Complaint Process

---

We have developed two new videos about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) complaint process.

- [FERPA's Complaint Process Explained](#) provides information on FERPA's complaint process, including information on who may file a complaint as well as common reasons complaints are filed.
- [What Happens When I File A Complaint?](#) provides information about what happens as the Department considers a complaint.

### New Guidance on Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

---

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) is a federal law that affords certain rights to parents of students attending elementary or secondary schools with regard to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that asks students to reveal information of a personal nature. PPRA also includes requirements concerning marketing surveys, parental access to instructional material, as well as the administration of certain physical examinations to minors.

We are pleased to announce a new [2-page general guidance on PPRA](#). This new guidance is written in plain language and explains the rights of parents and the requirements of local educational agencies (LEAs) under PPRA.

### Redesigned FERPA and PPRA Complaint Page

---

Parents and eligible students have the right to file a written complaint with SPPO regarding an alleged violation of rights under FERPA or PPRA. We have redesigned the [student privacy complaint page](#) to add the new videos about the

FERPA complaint process and to integrate the FERPA and PPRA complaint forms on one page. We hope the redesigned complaint page makes SPPO's complaint process more transparent and helps parents and eligible students to understand and exercise their rights under FERPA and PPRA.

## New FERPA Flyers

---

We are pleased to share a new class of resources: eight full-color [FERPA flyers](#) that are available for you to download and print. Providing quick messages on FERPA, personally identifiable information, and cybersecurity, these flyers are designed for posting in staff offices, break rooms, classrooms, and wherever a quick reminder about privacy may be needed.

## LEA Privacy Website Review Second Year Report

---

We are performing a four-year review of a sample of the websites of 1,504 LEAs to identify whether and how these websites include information about student privacy. In each year of the study, we are reviewing a nationally representative sample of 376 LEA websites, focusing on whether the LEAs included key student privacy documents and information about FERPA and PPRA on the LEA website, as opposed to on individual school, board of education, or other websites. This [recently released report](#) includes the first two years of research findings.

Highlights of the two-year findings include:

- 54 percent of LEAs reviewed posted on their websites the LEA's Annual Notice under FERPA,
- 52 percent of LEAs posted on their websites the LEA's policy under the Directory Information exception under FERPA, and
- 29 percent of LEAs posted on their website the LEA's policy under PPRA.

## COVID-related Resources

---

Finally, we want to remind the educational community that we've assembled resources related to [student privacy and the COVID-19 pandemic](#). These resources can be found on [our website](#), including the [September blog post by SPPO Director Kevin Herms](#) on disclosing information about cases of COVID-19.

As always, if you have questions please feel free to contact us via our website, <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov> or email us at [privacyTA@ed.gov](mailto:privacyTA@ed.gov).

Happy New Year!