

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) requires school districts to adopt a number of policies regarding surveys of students, instructional materials, physical examinations, personal information used for marketing, and the like related to students. Parents must be notified of these policies at least annually at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable time period after any substantial change is made to the policies.

If districts plan to (1) use students' personal information for selling or marketing purposes; (2) administer any survey about any of the eight topics listed in the statute (political beliefs, income, sex behavior or attitudes, etc.); or (3) administer certain non-emergency, invasive physical examinations, districts must directly notify parents at least annually at the beginning of the school year of the specific or approximate dates when these activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled.

The Department of Education lists policies that PPRA requires LEAs to develop, with the consultation of parents. These policies concern privacy, parental access to information, and administration of physical examinations of minors.

The PPRA requires schools to notify parents and eligible students of any school survey, analysis, or evaluation that involves:

- 1. the student or student's parents' political affiliations or beliefs;
- 2. the student or student's families' mental or psychological problems;
- 3. sex behavior or attitudes;
- 4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- 5. critical appraisals of others with whom the student has close family relationships;
- 6. legally recognized privileged relationships such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- 7. the student or student's parents' religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs; or
- 8. income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Schools must obtain parental consent for a student to participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that meets any of these criteria.