

Policy Information

Series 6000 - Students

Data Security and Privacy Policy

Policy # 6430

POLICY

2020 6430
Students

SUBJECT: Data Security and Privacy Policy

In accordance with New York State Education Law §2-d, the BOCES hereby implements the requirements of Commissioner's regulations (8 NYCRR §121) and aligns its data security and privacy protocols with the National Institute for Standards and Technology Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Version 1.1 (NIST Cybersecurity Framework or "NIST CSF").

In this regard, every use and disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) by the BOCES will benefit students and the BOCES (for example, improving academic achievement, empowering parents and students with information, and/or advancing efficient and effective school operations). PII will not be included in public reports or other documents.

The BOCES also complies with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Consistent with FERPA's requirements, unless otherwise permitted by law or regulation, the BOCES will not release PII contained in student education records unless it has received a written consent (signed and dated) from a parent or eligible student.

In addition to the requirements of FERPA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides additional privacy protections for students who are receiving special education and related services. For example, pursuant to these rules, the BOCES will inform parents of children with disabilities when information is no longer needed and, except for certain permanent record information, that such information will be destroyed at the request of the parents. The BOCES will comply with all such privacy provisions to protect the confidentiality of PII at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages as set forth in federal regulations 34 CFR 300.610 through 300.627.

The Board of Education values the protection of private information of individuals in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Further, the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction is required to notify parents, eligible students, teachers and principals when there has been or is reasonably believed to have been a compromise of the individual's private information in compliance with the Information Security Breach and Notification Act and Board policy and New York State Education Law §2-d

- a. "Private information" shall mean **personal information in combination with any one or more of the following data elements, when either the personal information or the data element is not encrypted or encrypted with an encryption key that has also been acquired:
 1. Social security number.
 2. Driver's license number or non-driver identification card number; or
 3. Account number, credit or debit card number, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password, which would permit access to an individual's financial account.
 4. Any additional data as it relates to administrator or teacher evaluation (APPR)

"Private information" does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state or local government records.

**"Personal information" shall mean any information concerning a person, which, because of name, number, symbol, mark or other identifier, can be used to identify that person.

- b. Personally Identifiable Information, as applied to student data, means 40 personally identifiable information as defined in section 99.3 of Title 34 of the Code of 41 Federal Regulations implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 42 U.S.C 1232-g, and as applied to teacher and principal data, means personally 43 identifying information as such term is defined in Education Law §3012-c (10).
- c. Breach means the unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of student data and/or teacher or principal data. Good faith acquisition of personal information by an employee or agent of the BOCES for the purposes of the BOCES is not a breach of the security of the system, provided that private information is not used or subject to unauthorized disclosure

Notification Requirements

- a. For any data owned or licensed by the BOCES that includes private information, the BOCES shall disclose any breach of the security of the system following discovery or notification of the breach to any resident whose private information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by a person without valid authorization. The disclosure to affected individuals shall be made in the within 60 days, consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement, or any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and restore the reasonable integrity of the data system. The BOCES shall consult with the New York State Cyber Incident Response Team and the New York State Chief Privacy Officer to determine the scope of the breach and restoration measures.
- b. For any data maintained by the BOCES that includes private information that the BOCES does not own, the BOCES shall notify the owner or licensee of the information of any breach of the security of the system within 60 days following discovery, if the private information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by a person without valid authorization.

The notification requirement may be delayed if a law enforcement agency determines that such notification impedes a criminal investigation. The required notification shall be made after the law enforcement agency determines that such notification does not compromise the investigation.

Methods of Notification

The required notice shall be directly provided to the affected persons and/or their guardians by one of the following methods:

- a. Written notice;
- b. Secure electronic notice, provided that the person to whom notice is required has expressly consented to receiving the notice in electronic form; and a log of each such notification is kept by the BOCES when notifying affected persons in electronic form. However, in no case shall the BOCES require a person to consent to accepting such notice in electronic form as a condition of establishing any business relationship or engaging in any transaction;

Regardless of the method by which notice is provided, the notice shall include contact information for the notifying BOCES and a description of the categories of information that were, or are reasonably believed to have been, acquired by a person without valid authorization, including specification of which of the elements

of personal information and private information were, or are reasonably believed to have been, so acquired. This notice shall take place 60 days of the initial discovery.

In the event that any residents are to be notified, the BOCES shall notify the New York State Chief Privacy Officer, the New York State Cyber Incident Response Team, the office of Homeland Security, and New York State Chief Security Officer as to the timing, content and distribution of the notices and approximate number of affected persons. Such notice shall be made without delaying notice to affected residents.

The District Superintendent or his/her designee will establish and communicate procedures for parents, eligible students, and employees to file complaints about breaches or unauthorized releases of student, teacher or principal data (as set forth in 8 NYCRR §121.4). The District Superintendent is also authorized to promulgate any and all other regulations necessary and proper to implement this policy.

Data Protection Officer

The BOCES has designated a BOCES employee to serve as the BOCES's Data Protection Officer.

The Data Protection Officer is responsible for the implementation and oversight of this policy and any related procedures including those required by Education Law Section 2-d and its implementing regulations, as well as serving as the main point of contact for data privacy and security for the BOCES.

The BOCES will maintain a record of all complaints of breaches or unauthorized releases of student data and their disposition in accordance with applicable data retention policies, including the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1 (1988; rev. 2004).

Annual Data Privacy and Security Training

The BOCES will annually provide data privacy and security awareness training to its officers and staff with access to PII. This training will include, but not be limited to, training on the applicable laws and regulations that protect PII and how staff can comply with these laws and regulations.

References:

Education Law §2-d

8 NYCRR §121

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC §1232(g), 34 CFR 99

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC §1400 et seq., 34 CFR 300.610–300.627

Board Approved:

Adoption Date: 7/15/2020
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