

Minnesota Student Privacy and Distance Learning

In the school setting, the **Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** and the **Minnesota Government Data Practices Act** protect student data from being shared unnecessarily or without a student's, parent's, or guardian's consent. As Minnesota students move to distance learning, here are some questions to consider regarding data privacy for you and your child.

Policies

- What is the school district's official FERPA and/or data privacy policy?
- What is the school district's technology policy and related rules?

Privacy

- Will other parents or individuals, outside of school staff, be able to see my child's image or work?
- What steps are being taken by the school to secure my child's data?
- Will any of the school's services be provided by third party vendors?
- If the school uses third party vendors, what information will be shared between the school and the vendor?
- Will the school share personally identifiable information about my child with outside vendors?
- What data will the school or third party vendors collect about my child's participation in the class or my child's computer use?
- Will the school or vendor be able to access the microphone or camera other than during class or service times? If so, how will they access or use this information?
- What rules apply to the school, the staff, and my child about recording of data presented or available in an online platform?
- What steps are being taken by the school to ensure the privacy of my child's service minutes?
- Are teachers, service providers, or others able to see my child and/or my home during class, service minutes, or at any other time?

Monitoring

- Who at the district is monitoring classes and services, and how is monitoring conducted?

What should I know?

- What additional steps can I, as the parent, take to assist in protecting my child's data privacy?

After reviewing these questions, share your concerns regarding data privacy with your child's teacher. For additional information, contact PACER Center at (952) 838-9000 or PACER@PACER.org.