

Minnesota Student Privacy and Virtual School Meetings

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 Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 Plan teams conduct virtual meetings, 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

- What steps are being taken by the school to ensure that discussions that occur during the meeting remain private?
- What steps are being taken by the school to secure my child's data so that it is not accessed by hackers or other parents?

Meetings

- How will IEP/504 meetings and other meetings related to my child be conducted?
- What rules apply to the recording of meetings that occur using the online platform?
- What steps are being taken by the district to protect my child's right to data privacy during and after these meetings?

Documents

- When and how will I and other team attendees be provided relevant documentation?
- How do I share documents with the team?
- What forms or permissions need to be completed to include an individual of my choosing to participate in and receive documentation about the meeting?
- Will I be provided with a copy of any written consent requested of my 18-year-old or older child?

What should I be aware of?

- What additional steps can I, as a parent, take to assist in protecting my child's data privacy?
- If I do not have a computer or internet access, how do I participate in these meetings and receive documents in a timely fashion?

After reviewing these questions, share your concerns regarding data privacy with your child's IEP or 504 team. For additional information, contact PACER Center at (952) 838-9000 or PACER@PACER.org.