

STUDENT SURVEYS

This circular will remain in effect unless rescinded or superseded by a subsequent version.

A federal statute, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. §1232h, affords some protections for students and their parents before certain student surveys are conducted. Many student surveys, however, will not come within the scope of this statute. Please assess each student survey carefully before administering it to determine if this policy applies. A student survey that is *anonymous* or *voluntary* need not comply with the following policy. Additionally, a student survey that is not *developed* or *administered* through the use of funds received from the United States Department of Education also does not need to comply with this policy.

For those student surveys that are developed or administered through the use of federal education funds and in which a student is required to participate, the following policy applies. This policy applies to those surveys that ask a student to reveal any of the following information: political affiliation; mental illness or psychological problems; sexual behavior and/or attitudes; illegal, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of close family members; relationships to which a privilege is recognized, such as clergy, medical doctors, or

attorneys; religious affiliations or beliefs; and income, other than for eligibility for participation in a program. Prior to administering such a survey, the student's parent or guardian must consent, in writing, to the student's participation in the survey. Also, a copy of the survey must be made available to the parent or guardian. Any such survey should also be brought to the attention of the Office of Legal Advisor.

For more information about this circular, contact:

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