F.E.R.P.A and C.O.P.P.A

Acronyms you need to know

I've been asked by Mr. Mudrow, the district webmaster, and Jon Hyatt of Curriculum Development to inform our teachers about FERPA and COPPA. FERPA and COPPA are not video game characters or creepy toys that smell like burning fur. FERPA and COOPA are federal laws that protect children's information.

FERPA: Family Educational Rights Privacy Act

COPPA: Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

What does this mean to you?

FERPA: At the beginning of the year, everyone signed a document on Encore called "Privacy of Student Information". By signing this document, you agreed that you were "legally and ethically obliged to protect confidential student information". According to FERPA, all schools must have WRITTEN PERMISSION to release any information from a student's record.

Scenario 1: A teacher finds a cool website that the students can use that will help them learn, gather data about her students' progress, and generate a report for the teacher. All the teacher needs to do is upload her class information. Easy peasy!

Nope! For any information about a student to be released, we must have WRITTEN CONSENT or the electronic equivalent (mydsd). Additionally, all programs must be approved by the district PRIOR to use so that it can be determined if the program meets curriculum standards as well as making sure their privacy policy is in compliance with the State of Utah and Davis School District standards of distribution of information.

As per Jon Hyatt: "The community has a right to know EVERY PLACE that we share student information with, which is why we must document as a district which sites and apps our students are connected to." This is why students should only be going to websites that can be accessed by links from the Mountain View website. If you need a site added, please let me know and I will work with the district webmaster and Jon to approve it.

We also need to know what the 3rd party sites are doing with the student's information. This is why the district wants to review every site so that they can ensure the students' information is being safely handled and purged after a three-year time period.

It is worth mentioning that a violation of the federal FERPA law could subject the school or the district to the withholding of federal funds for up to five years in extreme cases. It is also worth mentioning that an intentional violation of Utah's FERPA law is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a $2,500.00 fine, plus possible civil penalties. Just sayin'.

COPPA: No child under the age of 13 may create an account on a website without parental permission.

Scenario 2: A teacher finds an amazing fun game website for the students to learn core skills. The students simply need to have free accounts to access the site. The teacher decides to have the students create their own accounts during class.

Nope! You just "contributed to the delinquency of a minor"! As all of our students are under 13, they must have parental permission in some form under the law, and the district requires that we get written parental permission (mydsd). Having it in your disclosure or talking to parents at Back to School Night does NOT count. Again, the district also wants to ensure the program meets curriculum standards and that the privacy policy is in line with State of Utah and Davis School District Standards.

If you have maybe, kinda, sorta, just a little bit already violated FERPA and/or COPPA: please let Nicole Roche know immediately! I am currently working with Jon Hyatt. He is working hard to see what he can get approved where mistakes

have already been made this year (if he is able) on some websites. But I need to know quickly what they are and how students were signed up. There is a little more leniency this year because information was not accessible because of the website switch. Next year, there will not be any exceptions.

Websites like TTM, Imagine Math, Edutyping, etc. have already been vetted by the District and are covered by a document parents sign on mydsd. And if there is a site or program you want to have considered to be added in the future, PLEASE talk to me! The district is willing to review and consider adding them throughout the year.

For more information:

You are always welcome to talk to me!

Visit the district website: https://www.davis.k12.ut.us/departments/assessment/data-privacy

Utah State Board of Education Student Privacy Website: https://schools.utah.gov/studentdataprivacy

What is Utah FERPA? video by USBE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIbotehXGEw&feature=youtu.be

FERPA and classroom teacher responsibilities by USBE : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-koLhRPEUw

Read the super exciting policy: https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1536191597/davisk12utus/xkvygurbpxrwpobtd5rv/11IR-110FamilyEducationRightsandPrivacy.pdf

Remember: Knowing is half the battle!!