

Policy 7000	Student Surveys Involving Protected Topics
Approval Date	December 2023
Category	School Board Governance
Accountability	Board of Directors, Leadership

This policy was adopted to meet compliance regulations specific to SB49 (2023) and North Carolina state law: N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-76.20.

Pine Lake Preparatory shall ensure that all notification and other requirements of state law are met, including all legal requirements regarding the surveying of students.

A. Surveys Involving Protected Topics

1. Definition of Protected Topic Survey

For purposes of this policy, the following are considered a “protected topic”:

- a. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s family member or guardians;
- b. mental or psychological issues of the student or the student’s family;
- c. sex behavior or attitudes;
- d. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- e. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family or guardianship relationships;
- f. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- g. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student’s family members or guardians or
- h. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

For purposes of this policy, a “protected topic survey” is any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning any of the protected topics.

2. Rules Regarding Protected Topic Surveys

a. Protection of Student Privacy

The school system will take measures to protect the identification and privacy of students participating in any protected topic survey. These measures may include limiting access to completed surveys and to survey results, as allowed by law.

b. Parental Notification

At least 10 days prior to the administration of a protected topic survey, parents and eligible students (students who are 18 years of age or older) will be provided the opportunity to review both electronically and in person the process for providing consent to participate in the protected topic survey and the full text of the protected topic survey.

c. Parental Consent

Before a student will be permitted to participate in any protected topic survey, the parent or eligible student must provide prior written or electronic consent.

G.S. 115C-76.65