

520 STUDENT SURVEYS

I. PURPOSE

Occasionally EMID utilizes surveys to obtain student opinions and information about students. The purpose of this policy is to establish the parameters of information that may be sought in student surveys. This policy does not include program assessments and feedback requested for EMID services.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Student surveys may be conducted as determined necessary by EMID. Surveys, analyses and evaluations conducted as part of any program funded through the U.S. Department of Education must comply with 20 U.S.C. § 1232h.

III. STUDENT SURVEYS IN GENERAL

- A. Student surveys will be conducted anonymously and in an indiscernible fashion. No mechanism will be used for identifying the participating student in any way. No attempt will be made in any way to identify a student survey participant. There will be no requirement that the student return the survey, and no record of the student's returning a survey will be maintained.
- B. The Executive Director may choose not to approve any survey that seeks probing personal and/or sensitive information that could result in identifying the survey participant, or is discriminatory in nature based on age, race, color, sex, disability, religion, or national origin.
- C. Surveys containing questions pertaining to the student's or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality and religion will not be administered to any student unless the parent or guardian of the student is notified in writing that such survey is to be administered and the parent or guardian of the student gives written permission for the student to participate or the opportunity to opt out of the survey depending upon how the survey is funded. Any and all documents containing the written permission of a parent or guardian for a student to participate in a survey will be maintained by EMID in a file separate from the survey responses.
- D. Although the survey is conducted anonymously, potential exists for personally identifiable information to be provided in response thereto. To the extent that personally identifiable information of a student is contained in his or her

responses to a survey, the school district will take appropriate steps to ensure the data is protected in accordance with Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

- E. The district must not impose any penalty on a student who opts out of participating in a student survey.

IV. STUDENT SURVEYS CONDUCTED AS PART OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

- A. All instructional materials, including manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the students.
- B. No student shall be required, as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, without the prior consent of the student (if the student is an adult or emancipated minor), or in the case of an unemancipated minor, without the prior written consent of the parent or guardian, to submit to a survey that reveals information concerning:
 1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent or guardian;
 2. mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 3. sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
 7. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or
 8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

V. NOTICE

- A. EMID must give parents or guardians and students notice of this policy at the beginning of each year and after making substantive changes to this policy.
- B. The district must inform parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year if the district has identified specific or approximate dates for administering surveys and give parents/guardians reasonable notice of planned surveys scheduled after the start of the school year. The district must give parents/guardians direct, timely notice when their students are scheduled to participate in a student survey by US mail, email, or another form of direct communication,
- C. The district must give parents/guardians the opportunity to review the survey and to opt their students out of participating in the survey.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.065 (District Surveys to Collect Student Information, Parent Notice, and Opportunity for Opting Out)
20 U.S.C. 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
20 U.S.C. 1232h (Protection of Pupil Rights)
34 C.F.R. Part 99 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulation)
Gonzaga University v. Doe, 536 U.S. 273, 122 S. Ct. 2268, 153 L.Ed. 2d 309 (2002)
C.N. v. Ridgewood Bd. of Educ., 430 F.3d. 159 (3rd Cir. 2005)
Fields v. Palmdale School Dist., 427 F.3d 1197 (9th Cir. 2005)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Student Sex Nondiscrimination)