
Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

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Overview – U.S. Department of Education Information

Digital Academy of Florida recognizes and supports the rights of parents and students under the **Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, and applicable federal regulations, including 34 C.F.R. Part 98.**

The PPRA applies to programs and activities of a State educational agency (SEA), local educational agency (LEA), or other recipient of funds under any program funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

The PPRA establishes certain rights for parents regarding the administration of student surveys, analyses, and evaluations; the inspection of certain instructional materials and surveys; and the collection and use of certain information from students.

Additional information regarding PPRA may be found through the U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office.

PPRA Requirements

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment requires schools and school districts to provide parents with notice and, when applicable, obtain parental consent or provide parents with an opportunity to opt their child out of participation in certain covered school activities.

These activities may include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight categories of protected information:

1. **Political affiliations or beliefs** of the student or the student's parent;
2. **Mental or psychological problems** of the student or the student's family;
3. **Sex behavior or attitudes;**
4. **Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;**
5. **Critical appraisals of other individuals** with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. **Legally recognized privileged relationships**, such as those with lawyers, physicians, or ministers;
7. **Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs** of the student or the student's parent; and
8. **Income**, other than information required by law to determine program eligibility.

When a survey, analysis, evaluation, or other activity is subject to PPRA requirements, Digital Academy of Florida will follow the applicable federal, state, and district procedures concerning parental notification, consent, and/or the opportunity to opt the student out of participation.

Parent Rights Under PPRA

Parents have certain rights under the PPRA, including applicable rights to:

- Review covered surveys before they are administered to their children;
- Receive notice regarding covered activities and surveys;
- Provide consent or exercise an applicable right to opt their child out of participation;
- Review applicable instructional materials and surveys in accordance with federal law and district procedures; and
- Exercise applicable rights concerning the collection and use of protected information from their child.

These rights are administered in accordance with the PPRA, applicable federal regulations, and procedures established by Hendry County School District.

Annual Notification

Digital Academy of Florida provides annual notice of PPRA rights through the **Parent/Student Handbook**.

The PPRA notification is included in the Parent/Student Handbook each year, providing parents and families with an opportunity to review information regarding their rights and the school's obligations under the PPRA.

The annual notification includes information concerning the eight protected categories of information and explains that parental notification, consent, and/or an opportunity to opt out may apply to certain covered activities.

Families are encouraged to review the PPRA information in the Parent/Student Handbook each year and to contact school administration with questions regarding their rights or a particular survey, evaluation, or school activity.

Operational Procedures

Digital Academy of Florida will implement the following procedures to support compliance with the PPRA:

1. **Annual Notice:**
PPRA information will be included in the Parent/Student Handbook each school year.
2. **Parent Access:**
Parents will have an opportunity to review the PPRA information annually through the Parent/Student Handbook.
3. **Notification and Consent/Opt-Out:**
When required by applicable law or district procedure, the school will provide parents with appropriate notice and obtain consent or provide an opportunity to opt their child out of participation.
4. **Privacy Protection:**
Student information will be handled in accordance with applicable federal and state privacy requirements and Hendry County School District policies and procedures.
5. **Documentation:**
The school will maintain appropriate documentation demonstrating annual PPRA notification and, when applicable, documentation of required parent notification, consent, or opt-out procedures.
6. **Questions and Concerns:**
Parents or guardians who have questions regarding PPRA rights, a covered survey, or a school activity may contact Digital Academy of Florida administration for additional information.

Florida-Specific Requirements

Digital Academy of Florida operates in accordance with applicable Florida laws and Hendry County School District policies governing student and parent rights, privacy, and the collection and use of student information.

Where Florida law establishes additional protections concerning student or parent information, the school will follow those requirements in addition to applicable federal PPRA requirements.

Nothing in this policy is intended to limit any right provided to a parent or student under federal or Florida law.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to reflect changes in federal law, Florida law, U.S. Department of Education guidance, or applicable Hendry County School District policies and procedures.

Any required approval by the appropriate governing authority will be obtained before implementation of substantive policy changes.

