



Privacy and Classroom Video Recordings for Teacher Preparation

As a **policy maker** charged with setting requirements for teacher licensure or certification in your state, you make decisions by considering stakeholders' needs, research and best practices, potential burdens, and other factors. Today, an increasingly important consideration is how to protect the privacy of students, teachers, and teacher candidates when classroom videos are used to support the preparation and assessment of aspiring teachers. This document provides guidance to help you weigh and act on these critical issues.

Classroom Recordings Are Becoming Common in Educator Preparation

In addition to tests of subject knowledge, many states now require teacher candidates to record videos of themselves teaching in classroom settings. The videos are used, along with other classroom materials and artifacts, as part of performance assessments to evaluate candidates' classroom practice for state licensure or certification. Classroom video is an essential part of performance assessment because it captures teacher candidates as they deliver instruction and interact with students.

Video recordings also are used voluntarily by preparation program faculty or cooperating teachers to help teacher candidates review and reflect on their practice. Video helps candidates improve more quickly.

Securing Personal Information Is a Priority in Performance Assessment

Educators, parents, and policy makers like you are all concerned about safeguarding the privacy of the students, teachers, and teacher candidates who are in these videos. Everyone who uses video or other classroom materials that involve student work has a responsibility to maintain the privacy and the security of students. Similarly, teacher and teacher candidate privacy must be secured when classroom video is externally reviewed as part of a performance assessment.

Principles to Help Secure Personal Information

To help protect student and educator privacy, national organizations representing teachers, preparation programs, parents, and others created an Information Privacy Task Force. This task force developed a set of principles to clarify acceptable and unacceptable sharing of classroom video.

These principles provide important considerations for policy and guidance for schools that partner with teacher preparation programs and use video recordings in the classroom. Sample principles are listed in the sidebar.

Policy Makers: What You Need to Know

- Classroom videos captured during teacher preparation should be used only to support student learning and to prepare teacher candidates to be effective beginning teachers.
- Parents should sign permission forms before classroom videos are made or shared for teacher performance assessments.
- Everyone whose job requires access to classroom videos (such as an experienced teacher who is evaluating the teacher candidate) should have clear rules and guidelines for how to collect, use, protect, and destroy the videos.
- Classroom videos should never be used for informational or marketing purposes by educational institutions or service providers without parental permission.
- Any educational institution that collects or stores classroom videos should have a policy for notifying families of any misuse of information and explaining how the institution will respond. Each institution also should have a person for families to contact about parental rights and questions.

For more information, visit
<http://aacte.org/qsc>