

Privacy and Classroom Video Recordings for Teacher Preparation

As a **parent** of a student under 18, you might be asked for permission to allow your child to be recorded in a video of his or her student teacher conducting a lesson. Such videos are increasingly common as part of teacher preparation and for licensure or certification, but they must be used responsibly to safeguard the privacy of those whose image or work is recorded. This document helps explain how your child's privacy is being protected throughout this process.

Video Helps Teacher Candidates Become Effective Beginning Teachers

One of the most important activities for college students studying to become teachers is the time they spend in classrooms with students like yours. Today, many of these teacher candidates are recording videos of their instruction to help them improve their teaching faster. With video recordings, university faculty can give teacher candidates more meaningful feedback about their teaching. Recordings also might be used to evaluate teacher candidates' practice for state licensure or certification.

Video recording of classroom instruction has been used in teaching for decades, but it is being used more widely as technology and access to it improve. If there is a teacher candidate in your child's classroom, the candidate might be required to record himself or herself teaching a lesson.

Your Child's Privacy Matters

Protecting your child's privacy is a priority for preparation programs and their teacher candidates, partner schools, and the organizations that administer performance assessments. Use of these videos is already protected by federal and state privacy laws as well as local policies. For example, you will be asked to sign a permission form before your child is included in a video recording.

New Principles Guide the Use of Video Recording

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.

If your child's school uses video recordings in the classroom in partnership with teacher preparation programs, these principles provide important guidance. Sample principles are listed in the sidebar.

Parents: 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>