

Privacy and Classroom Video Recordings for Teacher Preparation

Leaders from across educator preparation and PK-12 schools are developing new and better ways to prepare beginning teachers and assess their readiness to lead today's diverse classrooms. In doing so, they are coming together to support the use of video to capture examples of practice. These videos provide meaningful evidence of how aspiring teachers perform in classrooms. This document provides guidance on how the field is securing student and educator privacy in this process.

Classroom Video Is Part of Great Educator Preparation

Each year, an estimated 193,000 aspiring teachers graduate from some 2,200 preparation providers. Most of these new teachers have gained valuable experience leading instruction in PK-12 classroom settings. Increasingly, their preparation involves the use of video recording to capture teacher candidates delivering classroom instruction. By reviewing these videos, program faculty and cooperating PK-12 teachers can help candidates improve their instruction more quickly.

Many States and Programs Require Candidate Video

In addition to using classroom video for reflection, many candidates now must record and submit videos of their instruction to independent scorers as part of a new generation of performance assessments. These assessments, already required in many states and preparation programs, are being widely implemented and use classroom video to document candidate performance. While technological advances have made these better assessments possible, these same advances pose potential challenges related to privacy.

Classroom Recordings Require Steps to Secure Personal Information

Educator preparation program faculty in states that require video recordings of candidates are the most likely to be asked to help candidates capture video of their instruction. These instructors play an essential role in helping to protect the privacy of students, teachers, and teacher candidates in the collection and review of classroom videos or related materials. While the videos are protected by federal and state privacy laws, instructors can make sure that candidates understand and observe local school and district policies for recording students and for securing permission from parents (and from students who are over 18 years old).

A New Resource

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. Everyone involved in educator preparation can help protect the privacy of students, teachers, and teacher candidates by supporting, sharing, and using these principles. Sample principles are listed in the sidebar.

National Education Leaders: 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>