

Privacy and Classroom Video Recordings for Teacher Preparation

Educator preparation programs are expanding their use of data and strengthening their relationships with PK-12 peers to better meet the needs of today's diverse classrooms. Increasingly, progress in these areas includes the use of video recording to review and assess the skills of aspiring teachers in the field. This document provides guidance and information on how to address privacy issues related to the use of video and other materials.

Recordings Help Programs and Candidates Reflect on Instruction

You are under increasing pressure to demonstrate how your teacher candidates perform in classroom situations. While practical hands-on learning has always been a priority for preparation programs, faculty and candidates frequently want or need examples of instruction for review and evaluation purposes. One way that teacher educators are meeting this demand is by asking teacher candidates to record themselves teaching in classroom settings.

Classroom Video Now Required by Many Programs and States

States increasingly require candidates to submit videos of their instruction to independent scorers as well. Video recordings are being 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 essential to performance assessment because it captures teacher candidates as they deliver instruction and interact with students.

Classroom Recordings Require Steps to Secure Personal Information

Teacher educators like you in states that require video recordings of candidates are the most likely to be asked to help candidates capture video of their instruction. If you are in this position, you 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. Although the videos are protected by federal and state privacy laws, you can make sure that candidates also 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 other education sectors created an Information Privacy Task Force. This task force developed a set of principles to clarify acceptable and unacceptable sharing of classroom video.

If you use video recordings of candidates in the field, these principles provide important guidance. Sample principles are listed in the sidebar.

Educator Preparation Programs: 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>