



Privacy and Classroom Video Recordings for Teacher Preparation

School administrators and district leaders are becoming more active partners in the development and preparation of new teachers. As part of this movement, educator preparation providers need you to support and help coordinate the video recording of teacher candidates leading instruction. This document provides guidance and information on how to address privacy issues throughout this process.

Video Helps Teacher Candidates Become Effective Beginning Teachers

As you know, video recordings of classroom instruction have been used for decades to help teachers reflect and improve their craft. Today, more teacher candidates are being asked to record themselves teaching in classroom settings as part of their preparation programs. The recordings might be reviewed by faculty or cooperating teachers to guide teacher candidates. They also might be used, along with other classroom materials and artifacts, to evaluate candidates' classroom practice in official performance assessments for state licensure or certification.

Securing Personal Information Is a Priority

While technological advances have made these better assessments possible, they pose new questions and potential challenges for PK-12 schools and preparation programs around securing personal information. To be sure, protecting the privacy of students, teachers, and teacher candidates as part of any review of classroom videos or materials already is a priority. These videos are protected by federal and state privacy laws and local policies. You can take additional steps, however, to ensure that everyone who supports aspiring teachers protects student, candidate, and teacher privacy.

Helping Administrators and Schools 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.

If your school or district partners with teacher preparation programs and uses video recordings in the classroom, these principles provide important guidance. Sample principles are listed in the sidebar.

PK-12 Administrators: 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>