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New FERPA Regulations

1 message

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The U.S. Department of Education has released final regulations amending the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA). The regulations have been published in the Federal Register and can be accessed here: <http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2011/12/02/2011-30683/family-educational-rights-and-privacy>. The regulations will be effective January 3, 2012.

You may recall that the revised regulations attempt to give greater flexibility to states to share data that can be helpful in judging the effectiveness of educational programs and institutions, while maintaining safeguards to student privacy. You can visit the USDOE's Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) website (<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/>) to view important documents that are being released with the new regulations, including two overview documents regarding the changes – one for state and local education agencies and another for parents and students. These documents may prove useful in communicating the regulation changes with your staff and community. Other documents available on the site include *Guidance for Reasonable Methods and Written Agreements* and updated model notifications for local education agencies.

Should you have questions about any of the issues raised in these final regulations, you may e-mail the FPCO at FERPA@ed.gov.

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