

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 235.1

Section: 200 Pupils

Title: Student Surveys

Adopted: January 18, 2018

Revised: June 29, 2023

## 235.1 STUDENT SURVEYS

### **Purpose**

To further the goal of partnering with families to foster stronger learning communities, this Policy sets forth the rights of parents/guardians and students with regard to student surveys and the information contained therein in conformity with federal law.

### **Definitions**

**Protected Information Survey:** A survey concerning one or more of the following protected areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

### **Authority**

Federal law requires that the Board of Education ("Board") maintain a policy that sets forth parent/guardian rights regarding protected information surveys administered or distributed by the School District of Philadelphia ("District") to students, as well as regarding the collection, disclosure, or use of information collected from students gleaned from those surveys. The Pennsylvania Public School Code permits the Board to enact such rules and regulations as necessary regarding surveying students. [1]

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Evaluation, Research & Accountability, to develop Administrative Procedures regarding the administration

and dissemination of surveys to students that set forth, at a minimum, the following regarding protected information surveys:

1. The procedures for obtaining consent;
2. The right of parents/guardians to receive notice and opt out of having a survey administered to a student; and
3. The right of parents/guardians to inspect the survey, instruments used to collect personal information from students, and the curriculum.[2]

All surveys involving collection and use of information for the District shall be consistent with the educational objectives of the District and be consistent with law and regulations.

Surveys conducted by outside agencies, organizations, and individuals shall be approved by the Office of Evaluation, Research & Accountability prior to administration to students.

### **Mandatory Regulatory Procedures**

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling, or otherwise providing information to others for that purpose is prohibited. However, this does not apply to information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students or schools, such as:

- College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
- Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literacy products;
- Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary and secondary schools; and
- Student recognition programs.[3]

Parents/Guardians shall be informed of the nature and scope of individual surveys and their relationship to the educational program of their child and the parent's/guardian's right to inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party prior to administration or distribution to a student. Such requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Research Review Committee.[3][4]

Parents/Guardians shall be informed of their right to have their child excluded from any surveys.[3][4]

### **Collection of Information for Marketing, Sales, or Other Distribution Purposes**

The District shall not disclose personal or protected information for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise providing information to third parties for that purpose unless required by law.

## Privacy

The District shall implement Administrative Procedures to protect student identity and privacy in the context of surveys.[3]

### **Legal References:**

1. 24 P.S. § 5-510
2. Policy 105.1 - Curriculum Review by Parents-Guardians and Students
3. 20 U.S.C. 1232h
4. 22 PA Code 12.41

### **Related Information:**

[Administrative Procedures for Student Surveys](#)