

Privacy and Classroom Video Recordings for Teacher Preparation

As a cooperating **teacher** who works with teacher candidates during their clinical experiences, you play an essential role in educator preparation. When candidates need to make video recordings to capture their work in your classroom, there's a good chance you will be asked to help them make recordings, explain the purpose of video to parents, and secure necessary releases. This document provides guidance on how to address privacy issues related to this work.

Video Is Increasingly Common in Educator Preparation

Today, many teacher candidates are being asked or required to record themselves on video as they teach in classroom settings. The recordings can be reviewed by faculty or cooperating teachers to help teacher candidates review and reflect on their practice. The videos also might be 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 an essential part of performance assessment because it captures teacher candidates as they deliver instruction and interact with students.

Taking Steps to Secure Personal Information

One of your most important roles is helping to protect the privacy of students and educators in the collection and review of classroom videos or related materials. Although the videos are already protected by federal and state privacy laws, you can make sure that candidates also understand and observe your 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 for Cooperating Teachers

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 your teacher candidates use video recordings in the classroom, these principles provide important guidance. Sample principles are listed in the sidebar.

PK-12 Cooperating Teachers: 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.