PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII)



Districts leverage data to advance the goals of improving academic achievement, empowering parents and students with information, and advancing efficient and effective school operations. **Districts need to balance these benefits and the responsibility to minimize the collection and transmission of PII in order to reduce risk**. Specifically, educational agencies must ensure that every use of PII by the educational agency benefits students. Additionally, educational agencies can not sell or disclose PII for commercial purposes. To learn more about this requirement, agencies can review Part 121.2 and 121.5 of the Regulations.

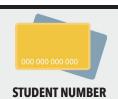
PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

Personally identifiable information (PII) includes information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity either directly or indirectly through linkages with other information.











DISCLOSURE AVOIDANCE PROCEDURES

SUPPRESSION

Educational Agencies must ensure personally identifiable information is not included in public reports or other documents.

Disclosure avoidance procedures are efforts made to protect PII in aggregate

reports and public documents. These strategies reduce the risk of disclosure of PII. The diagram to the right highlights three commonly used disclosure avoidance methods. To learn more about disclosure avoidance

practices, agencies can

DISCLOSURE AVOIDANCE
BRACTICES
BETTURBATION

DESCRIPTION

DISCLOSURE AVOIDANCE

BLURRING

DESCRIPTION

PERTURBATION

Involves removing data to prevent identification of small groups

Involves reducing the precision of the disclosed data to minimize identification

Involves making small changes to the data to prevent identification of unique groups

visit https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/. This website is a service of the U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) and the Family Policy Compliance Office.