



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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BOARD APPROVES POLICY TO PROTECT STUDENT DATA

(Pocatello). The Idaho State Board of Education today approved an addition to existing policy to further protect student identifiable data and ensure the privacy of all data is held to the highest standard.

“The Board recognizes it is essential to provide all the safeguards necessary to ensure that student data are handled with the greatest care,” said Don Soltman, President of the Board. *“The Board is committed to protecting the privacy of individual student data and will continue to closely monitor the collection and use of all data.”*

The [Idaho Data Management Council](#), established in 2011, makes recommendations on the oversight and development of Idaho’s Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) and oversees the creation, maintenance and use of that system.

The intent of the SLDS is to provide more and better information to Idaho education leaders, policymakers, students, parents and taxpayers to help inform decision making. The SLDS is an important tool for gathering, analyzing, and reporting progress toward the state’s education goals.

Today’s action added to the current policy regarding data protection by stipulating that *“The privacy of all student level data that is collected by the SLDS will be protected. A list of all data fields (but not the data within the fields) collected by the SLDS will be publicly available. Only student identifiable data that is required by law will be shared with the federal government.”*

Currently postsecondary institutions are required to release some student identifiable data to the federal government. These instances are primarily for meeting the Internal Revenue Service requirements for student tax reporting information and to meet requirements of the Social Security Administration. These requirements have been in place for some time for the financial benefit of students.

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