

Privacy Act & Reporting of Student Achievement

Context

National Administration Guideline 2A requires schools to include information in the Annual Report about the numbers of students in the school who are at, above, below or well below the National Standards in literacy and numeracy.

Purpose of Privacy Act & Reporting of Student Achievement

In reporting student achievement data to whoever has a legitimate right to the information, the way in which the data is represented will be carefully determined within the context of the Privacy Act 1993 and in particular Information Privacy Principle 11 -

(h) that the information—

- (i) is to be used in a form in which the individual concerned is not identified; or
- (ii) is to be used for statistical or research purposes and will not be published in a form that could reasonably be expected to identify the individual concerned;

Policy

- NAG 2A (c) requires the inclusion of school level data that includes –
 - the numbers and proportions of students at, above, below or well below the standards,
 - including by Māori, Pasifika and by gender (where this does not breach an individual's privacy).
- For the purposes of reporting student achievement data “in the public domain”, no cohort (ethnic, gender or year level) with less than 15 students will be reported as part of the “micro level” data.
- All data will be included at the “school level” as long as individual students cannot be identified in doing so.
- For the purposes of this policy, “public domain” includes data reports to the Ministry of Education unless there is a clear proviso (on the part of the MOE) that will ensure protection of the data from use for any purpose other than that it was collated for.
- Student data will be gathered, used and/or reported for the following purposes :
 - For teaching and learning at individual and class level;
 - For reporting to parents about their child's progress and achievement;
 - For reporting to the board of trustees and the community;
 - For accountability to the Ministry of Education as determined in NAG2A;

CONCLUSION

The student is at the “heart of the matter”. Preserving the privacy of students (who may otherwise be identifiable within data reports) and their family is paramount. These considerations will guide decisions around inclusion of data in the context of systems demands around accountability.

Also refer to the following procedure:

- Curriculum and Assessment Policy and Guidelines
- Reporting to Parents Policy and Guidelines