



CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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New York City Council Hearing: Legislation That Would Protect Student Privacy

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I am very concerned about the proposal to share our student's information. I say this as a parent to special needs children, and in my role as president of the District 75 Community Education Council, which represents citywide the thousands of families of special needs children who are on the autism spectrum, have significant cognitive delays, are severely emotionally challenged, sensory impaired and/or multiply disabled,

Our children's information being shared would become a fountain of resource for criminal acts of identity theft. How many of our children would check their credit history for inconsistencies or errors? These crimes by no stretch are victimless. Disabled children and adults have lost services and benefits after being such victims and must then prove their innocence in such matters. People in everyday life without disabilities struggle to expunge their records of these criminal acts, imagine how much harder it is for our loved ones who are limited in their ability to advocate for justice.

It would also make it easier for our children who will someday be adults to be excluded from such services such as day habs, residency, etc if such information that includes incidents where police or emergency services have been called to address a particular behavioral incident which in some instances would be isolated or misunderstandings.

Major points of concern include:

- Lack of transparency from the DOE
- How will the DOE gather such information?
- What will this information be shared for?
- What is the purpose of this information to be shared?

There are many ways that the gathering of such information and access to our children's information can go wrong. Have we not witnessed this with the most trusted of institutions such as: banks, credit reporting companies, and even hospitals have been negligent in the disposal of records? How easily can a predator access and misuse such information?

Currently New York and Illinois are the only states remaining that share this data with these agencies without allowing the parent to choose not to participate. Please vote to protect our special needs children and all the children of New York City. I ask that you allow parents the ability to management and monitor the sharing of their personal information.

Gloria Corsino, President of the Community Education Council for District 75