

**Subject** Educational data: Student directory information

**Authors** Feist

**Analyst** Nathan Hopkins

**Date** February 27, 2024

## Summary

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records at educational agencies or institutions that receive funds from programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education. One FERPA provision allows an institution to designate certain nonsensitive education records as “directory information” that can be publicly released without student or parent consent.

Minnesota’s Government Data Practices Act (GDPA) (Minn. Stat. ch. 13) is a state law that also protects the privacy of “educational data” that a public educational agency or institution maintains on students. See Minn. Stat. § 13.32. The GDPA currently prohibits Minnesota school districts from making a student’s personal contact information publicly available directory information. See Minn. Stat. § 13.32, subd. 5(c).

This bill allows the private personal contact information of students receiving special education services to be disclosed to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for purposes of coordinating postsecondary transition services.