



Northside ISD

Student Data Collection and Security Fact Sheet

Northside ISD prioritizes student success through the effective, responsible, and secure use of student data. This commitment is underpinned by adherence to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law that establishes the framework for protecting student education records and governs data sharing permissions.

Beyond federal requirements, NISD employs strict internal guidelines and procedures to ensure the confidentiality and security of all collected and managed student data, safeguarding student privacy. The collection of all student data complies with applicable State, Federal, and local laws and regulations. Accurate data collection is vital for meeting State and Federal mandates, supporting public reporting, and enabling the monitoring of performance across both the school and District levels.

Northside ISD Student Data Collection

Core Data Collection Categories for Every Student:

- Student Demographics
 - Name
 - Birthdate
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Gender
- Enrollment
 - State Assigned Student Identifier
 - School
 - District
 - Grade Level
 - Entry/Exit date/Type
 - Courses completed
 - Course Educator ID
- Program Participation
 - Title I
 - Special Education/Gifted
 - Free/Reduced Lunch
 - English Language Learner
 - Migrant Status

State Assessment (students in assessed grades):

- State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)
 - Scores/results
 - Testing accommodations
 - Student growth percentiles
- College Preparatory Exam
- College Entrance Exam
- Alternative/Special needs test results

Only for Students Participating in Specific Programs:

- Early Childhood
 - Enrollment start/end dates
 - Early Childhood Assessments
- Special Education
 - Disability / Gifted type(s)
 - Services received
 - Discipline incidents
 - Parent contact information
 - Select data from the Individualized Education Program
- English Language Learners
 - Primary language
 - English language proficiency level
- Migrant
 - Certificate of Eligibility
 - Services received
- Concurrent Enrollment
 - Participating institution
- Career and Technical Education
 - Participation/concentration

Purpose of Student Data Collection

- State or Federal Law
- Statute or Regulation

Who Has Access to Student Data

- Authorized and authenticated NISD education officials and information services personnel
- Authorized and authenticated school and district personnel
- Contracted vendors with signed data privacy obligations for specified applications

How is the Student Data Used?

Individual Student Data Uses:

- Allocation of state funding
- Administering state assessments
- Calculating individual student growth
- Post-secondary enrollment and remediation feedback

Aggregated Student Data Uses

- School and District Performance Reports
- Program evaluation and measurement
- School and District Improvement Plans
- Federal reporting/funding
- Public reporting

Archiving of Student Data

- All individual student data is encrypted and rendered non-individually identifiable through data portioning and warehoused per legal requirements.
- Access is restricted and actively monitored.

Safeguarding NISD Student Data

- Access Control
 - Identity Management
 - (Authentication / Authorization)
 - Multifactor Authentication
 - Complex password
 - Local access management
- Principle of least privilege
- Access logging/monitoring (device and location)
- Intrusion prevention/vulnerability assessments
- Laptop/mobile device password locks
- Annual security awareness training for all staff
- Security Tips in monthly staff newsletters and Department Technology Times
- Encryption
 - Use of State Assigned Student ID and encrypted SASID to isolate student data from student names.
 - Multi-level database encryption
- Secure Transit
 - Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP)
 - Hypertext Transfer Protocol with Secure Socket Layer (HTTPS)
- Physical Security
 - Controlled building and Data Center Access
 - Video surveillance

Meeting/Exceeding Federal and State Student Privacy Laws

- Student privacy procedures fully adhere to the guidelines outlined in Federal and State law, but NISD includes additional safeguards such as the following:
 - District guidance for student data security and privacy policies
 - Annual policy reviews and revisions
 - Data governance committee to determine internal accountability for student data
 - Data breach notification and liability clauses in vendor contracts and agreements that involve individual student data
 - Annual independent security audits