

Deaf-Blind Census Confidentiality and Release of Information Issues

The Florida deaf-blind project is funded by and reports to the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). We are charged with maintaining a registry of eligible individuals who experience both hearing and vision loss (regardless of the existence of additional disabling conditions) for the purpose of making available technical assistance and training to families, educators, other agency personnel, and community members. We have been advised that the release of information for this registry (the Florida census) does not violate the Family Education and Privacy Act (FERPA) according to the US Code of Federal Regulations Title 34 Part 99 Section 31 for the following reason:

Sec.99.31(a)(6)(i) The disclosure is to organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, educational agencies or institutions to:

- (A) Develop, validate, or administer predictive tests;
- (B) Administer student aid programs; or
- (C) ***Improve instruction.***

Sec.99.31(a)(6)(iv) For the purposes of paragraph (a)(6) of this section, the term organization includes, but is not limited to, Federal, State, and local agencies, and independent organizations.

Census data (EXCLUDING the names and addresses of students, guardians, and district personnel) from all states are collected by the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness on behalf of OSEP.

If you have any questions, please call and speak with Florida deaf-blind project staff at 800-677-4052 or locally at 352-273-7530.