



The DPI's data system ([Wisconsin Information System for Education](#), or WISE) complies with federal and state laws on student data collection and reporting. Student data privacy is protected at the federal, state and local level. Moreover, there are [training materials](#) around privacy and security that DPI has made available as guidance to public school districts to assist them in complying with the federal and state laws on student data collection and reporting.

### **What is the Wisconsin Information System for Education (WISE)?**

WISE is a comprehensive information system comprised of multiple tools that support data collection to meet all required district, school, state, and federal reporting mandates. Collected data are made available through “dashboards” (i.e., visual collections of graphs and tables) and reporting tools which inform education research and data analysis to better understand and improve educational outcomes for Wisconsin students. These tools promote high data quality, provide security procedures, and establish standards to ensure data privacy.

### **What tools has DPI provided to the public to view, compare, and explore statistics about public schools?**

The [WISEdash Public Portal](#) is a data portal that uses dashboards to provide multi-year education data about Wisconsin schools. Data on the portal are redacted and available by school, district or state. Redaction protects personally identifiable information. Up-to-date current and certified “snapshot” data can be displayed for multiple years and can be grouped and filtered by a variety of demographics including grade level, gender, race/ethnicity, economic status, disability, English proficiency, and migrant status. Data download files are also available. As a public reporting tool, WISEdash is used by districts, schools, parents, researchers, media, and other community members to view data published by DPI.

### **What tools has DPI provided to school districts to view, compare, and explore statistics about public schools?**

[WISEdash for Districts](#), launched in September 2012, is a secure portal. To use this secure, password-protected portal, DPI has provided districts with flexible options for defining user roles when accessing the data. Role assignments by staff are determined by the districts to allow them to maintain local control of the implementation of the security and to ensure that the implementation is in line with current district policy. Roles include:

- **Summary Analyst Role** – Summary role of access to aggregate-level student data. Restricts access to individual student data.
- **Student Detail Analyst Role** – All permissions included in Summary Analyst Role plus the ability to drill down to individual student-level data with the exception of student-level

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socioeconomic status data.

- **Economic Indicator Analyst Role** – All permissions included in Student Detail Analyst Role plus access to student-level socioeconomic status information.

### **Why does DPI collect data?**

DPI collects data to meet all required school, district, state, and federal reporting mandates, e.g, [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) , [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#), and [Title II Higher Education Act](#). These data inform education research and data analysis. Through the DPI dashboard and reporting tools, DPI staff, teachers, administrators, parents, and researchers are better able to understand and improve educational outcomes for Wisconsin students.

### **What data does DPI collect? What data does DPI NOT collect?**

DPI collects [multi-year education data](#) about Wisconsin schools through WISEid, [WISEdata](#) and through other focused data collections. That data includes information such as student demographics, enrollment counts, attendance rates, and high school completion. DPI also collects academic performance data from state and national assessments including the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS), ACT, Advanced Placement (AP), and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for the state’s public schools, school districts, and non-district charter schools. DPI receives postsecondary enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). **The DPI does not collect** school and district level pupil records such as progress reports, patient healthcare records, pupil physical health records, or biometric data.

### **What data is DPI required to report to the Federal Government through EDFacts and Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)?**

[EDFacts](#) is a U. S. Department of Education initiative to put performance data at the center of policy, management and budget decisions for all K-12 educational programs. The [consolidation of performance indicators by the U.S Department of Education](#) began in 2002. (See the [EDFacts Overview](#) for details.) EDFacts centralizes performance data supplied by K-12 State Education Agencies (SEAs) with other data, such as financial grant information, to enable better analysis and use in policy development, planning and management.

[The DPI is required to report to EDFacts](#) aggregated data including: number of districts, schools, Title I schools, charter schools; student enrollment; number of schools that meet annual measurable objects (AMOs); state assessment results in reading and mathematics for grades



3-8 and 10; NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) results in reading and mathematics in grades 4 and 8; AP (Advanced Placement) participation rate and AP performance; state graduation rates; state dropout rates; and per pupil expenditure and total funding for education.

[2012 EDFacts State Profile: Three-year Comparison - Wisconsin](#) is the latest report as of March 2015.

The DPI is also required to support Wisconsin school districts biennially for the Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection survey. Since 1968, the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) has collected data on key education and civil rights issues in our nation's public schools for use by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in its enforcement and monitoring efforts, by other Department offices and federal agencies, and by policymakers and researchers outside of the Department. The data is disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, limited English proficiency, and disability.

### **Why is data used by districts? How do districts use the data?**

Most districts and schools conduct annual data retreats where staff collaborate to analyze datasets and design strategies to differentiate instruction and interventions for each student. Formative and summative assessment data discussions inform teachers on the pacing of curriculum content including which students need remediation and which students need acceleration in a particular curriculum concept or skill.

Districts, school administrators, and teachers use data to grow internal capacity for data inquiry and to design and implement a thoughtful school improvement action plan based on their data analyses. Teachers use data to improve instructional practices and inform individualized educational strategies for students. The data informs how teachers can work together to respond to interventions that will improve teaching and learning.

### **Why is data used by DPI? How does DPI use the data?**

DPI teams use data to give feedback reports and program analysis to inform preK-12 educational strategies and innovative practices. DPI uses data to send information back to districts, to provide services to teachers and parents, to prepare reports, and to inform educational stakeholders how students are doing in the aggregate. State data is aggregated and reported as required by law to the U.S. Department of Education's EDFacts system that populates national data sets such as the Common Core of Data (CCD), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC).



### **How does DPI maintain the security and confidentiality of data?**

DPI data collection and reporting systems must protect student privacy and be useful, valid and reliable. Protecting student privacy is required by law and is the highest priority of the DPI.

WISEdash for Districts uses passwords and authorization levels to allow school personnel to access the data they need to make decisions about programs, curriculum, or individual students. The DPI provides information on security protocols on the [Secure Home Information Page](#).

To protect the privacy of student data the DPI requires school districts to review and sign agreements before accessing software applications in which student data is stored. The District Administrator must submit a District Administrator Authorization Form to DPI for the district to access these software applications. The District Administrator must be, or delegate someone to be, the District Security Administrator. This position is responsible for the district's data access and privacy policies and procedures. The agreement requires the District Administrator to understand and follow explicit protocols to protect student privacy. In addition, each user who logs into software applications to access student data agrees to similar protocols. Each school district assigns access to DPI software applications. (For more information on these roles please see the following links: [Security Overview](#) and the [Secure Home Information Page](#).) Information from pupil records is to be shared only with staff who have a legitimate educational need to see the data. The WISEdash Public Portal contains data the DPI is required to publish and is summarized and redacted to protect student privacy.

### **How does FERPA and Wisconsin Pupil Records Law (118.125) protect student privacy?**

Wisconsin and federal law ([FERPA](#)) protect student privacy by limiting the disclosure of educational records of students and by requiring parental consent for disclosure. These limitations also apply to student data contained in educational records. FERPA also permits parents to review educational records and to request changes if the records contain inaccurate factual information.

FERPA and [Wisconsin Law](#) contain some exceptions to the general rule of non-disclosure without parental consent. One exception permits public schools to disclose "directory" information. Directory information includes information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance.



Districts individually determine what information they consider to be directory information. Annually, districts must notify parents of their rights under FERPA including what information the district considers directory information. Districts also tell parents they can forbid disclosure of their child’s directory information and the time period within which the parent must act to forbid disclosure.

When a student turns 18, the parental rights described transfer to the student.

### **Other Training Resources:**

[Data Quality Campaign Partners](#), who represent all levels of educators including parents, school administrators, and state education officers, began in 2004 to assist state and local school districts in addressing concerns about student data privacy. DQC supports and guides educators with information that helps them effectively use and protect student information. [Why effective educational data analysis](#) is important and [Data FAQ’s](#) are explained thoroughly on the [Data Quality Campaign website](#).

The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) also developed [Student Data Principles](#) to guide the work of everyone who uses student information to support learning and prepare K-12 students to be successful in college and careers. DQC shares these principles as a “fundamental framework for educational institutions to build upon, above and beyond complying with federal, state, and local laws.”

The U.S. Department of Education established the [Privacy Technical Assistance Center](#) (PTAC) as a “one-stop” resource for education stakeholders to learn about data privacy, confidentiality, and security practices related to student-level longitudinal data systems and other uses of student data. PTAC provides timely information and updated guidance on privacy, confidentiality, and security practices through a variety of resources, including training materials and opportunities to receive direct assistance with privacy, security, and confidentiality of student data systems.

### **Where can I go if I have additional questions?**

Submit a WISEdash Help Ticket @ <http://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/help/ticket>.

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### **Resource Links**

COPPA - [Children's Online Privacy Protection Act](#)

CRDC - [Civil Rights Data Collection](#) - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Support for Districts

DQC - [Data Quality Campaign](#)

EDFacts - [US Department of Education EDFacts Initiative](#)

ESEA - [Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#)

FERPA - [Family Educational Links and Privacy Act](#)

HIPAA - [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#)

IDEA - [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

NSLA - [National School Lunch Act](#)

PPRA - [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](#)

PTAC - [Privacy Technical Assistance Center](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture - [Use of Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Information Nondiscrimination or Identification of Recipients, 42 USC 1758\(b\)\(2\)\(C\)iii](#)

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction - [Secure Home Information Page](#)

Wisconsin Statute 115.297 - [Cooperative Research on Education Programs; State Student Data System](#)

Wisconsin Statute 118.125 - [Pupil Records](#)

Wisconsin Statute 118.19 - [Teacher Certification and Licenses](#)

WISE - [Wisconsin Information System for Education](#)

WISEdash - [Wisconsin Information System Public Portal](#)

WISEdash for Districts - [Homepage](#)

WISEdata - [Homepage](#)