

NOTICE TO PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S) REGARDING VIRTUAL/REMOTE INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY

As you are aware, the Regional School District No. 10 Public Schools is offering remote instruction **for general and special education instruction, related services, and Section 504 accommodations, whether for whole class, group or individual instruction or services** during the school closures that have been ordered by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Region 10 will continue to respect the privacy rights of our students during the provision of this distance learning. As such, the confidentiality protections set forth in Region 10's Family and Educational Right Privacy Act policies and notices will also apply to the remote educational opportunities that we are offering. Furthermore, all third-parties with which Region 10 has contracted to provide online-related services must comply with the mandates of the Student Data Privacy Act (as may be applicable) and protect student information.

Although current circumstances have necessitated instruction in the form of "virtual classes," they are still classes. As such, it is important that students, as well as parents, guardians, family members or other individuals who may be at home with students during the provision of Region 10's remote educational opportunities treat it as they would a school-based classroom. It is especially important that any student, parent, guardian, family member, or other individual:

- 1) Not disrupt the delivery of instruction to any student or during any other aspect of the educational process;
- 2) Avoid unnecessary access to confidential or personally identifiable information regarding other students, as well as of their families; and
- 3) Not disclose any information that in any way pertains to other students or their families that you may have incidentally discovered during any observations of a class or instruction.

While Region 10 continues to welcome and encourage parents or guardians to communicate with their children's instructional staff as they would under normal circumstances, they should refrain from doing so when remote learning is occurring.

Finally, as with classroom visitations, electronic recording or video/audio taping by students, parents, guardians, family members, or other individuals of either students or teachers in our schools, in the classroom, or during the provision of remote instruction is not permitted (and with respect to remote-instruction audio and visual communications may be illegal under federal and state law). Any such 1) recording, 2) release or disclosure of confidential information concerning other students or their family members, or 3) any disruption of the remote learning to any students may result in disciplinary consequences, including but not necessarily limited to the suspension of online/remote privileges.

The recording of the remote instruction by students, parents, guardians, family members, or other individuals, teachers and service providers are entitled to, and may, make a recording of a virtual classroom, or remote learning, lesson so that it

will be available to students enrolled in the class, particularly students who were unable to attend a specific lesson due to illness or some other reason. While such recordings may briefly include student responses and images, please be advised that such recordings are only being made available to students through Region 10's online instructional platforms and are not available to the public at large or through any other media. The display or transmission of these recordings by student or parents to others is strictly prohibited and could result in disciplinary consequences, including but not necessarily limited to the suspension of online/remote privileges.

It is Region 10's goal to continue to protect all students' confidentiality during these unprecedented times. Region 10 believes that the policies and procedures as set forth herein offer appropriate safeguards and provide informed consent for any child's participation in Region 10's virtual/distance-learning program. Nonetheless, if any parent or guardian is concerned about the potential release of student information or their child's privacy rights, please feel free to contact Region 10.