



# School District of New London

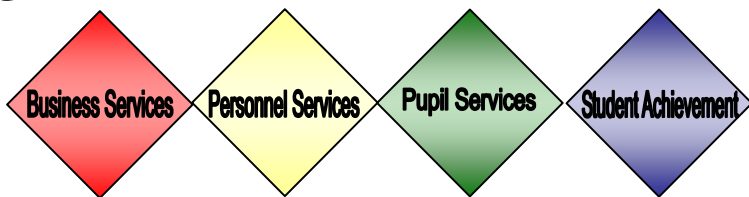
**DIVISION**

## **MONTHLY UPDATE**

**By: Ann Christopherson**

**Division: Pupil Services**

**Date: July 2011**



### **U.S. Department of Education Proposing FERPA Regulation Changes**



The U.S. Department of Education today announced a series of initiatives to safeguard student privacy while clarifying that states have the flexibility to share school data that are necessary to judge the effectiveness of

government investments in education. Over time, interpretations of FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) have become more complicated in the disclosure of student information without increasing privacy protections and, sometimes, decreased the protection afforded students.

To help strike a balance between student records privacy and data availability, FERPA Clarification has been proposed. The proposed regulations would give states the flexibility to share data to ensure that taxpayer funds are invested wisely in effective programs, as well as increase accountability for institutions that handle FERPA protected records.

Under the Department's proposal:

- o Enforcement provisions of FERPA would be strengthened to ensure that every entity working with personally identifiable information from student education records is using it for authorized purposes only.
- o Schools will be able to implement directory information policies that limit access to student records, preventing marketers or criminals from accessing the data.
- o States can enter into research agreements on behalf of their districts to measure the success of programs, such as early childhood programs that effectively prepare kids for kindergarten.

- o High school administrators can share information on student achievement to track how their graduates perform academically in college.

The timeline for feedback on these changes ended on May 23, 2011; it is anticipated that these changes will go into effect for the coming school year.

### **On-Line Learners**

As we continue to move forward with options and opportunities for our students, I wanted to share how students have fared with on-line opportunities within the 2010-2011 school year and summer school settings to-date.



During the school year, 17 students were taking one or more on-line courses, purchased by the school district. In total, 29 courses have been started since 9/1/10.

Results:

- o 11 - completed successfully.
- o 1 - completed, but failed the final exam.
- o 12 - in progress.
- o 1 - dropped, student is no longer in district.
- o 4 - not currently showing progress, but we anticipate successful completion.

An on-line pilot with several students is currently underway in summer school through EdOptions, a commercial vendor of virtual opportunities.

Our students in the pilot are sharing positive comments and displaying positive results. Students are solely working on credit recovery and like an opportunity to pretest and skip those concepts for which they demonstrate mastery. In the first session of credit recovery summer school, students are completing an average of 3 semesters of make-up credit per student.