

Dear Parents:

In a law passed a year ago, the Maine Department of Education is now requiring school systems to provide the State with students' Social Security numbers as the identifying number in the State student information data base. This identifier would be used to track data about a student from early childhood to college and the work place so that the State can better understand the effect of the student's education on his/her future experiences.

M.S.A.D. No. 75 objected to this requirement prior to the passing of the Law and objects to it now. Maine DOE is not required or authorized to collect this information under federal or Maine law. The District believes that holding such information in a State data base makes it vulnerable to unintended disclosure. Such disclosure could easily create damaging consequences for the identified individuals.

M.S.A.D. No. 75 will only provide the State with your child's Social Security number with your permission. Please find an "opt-in" form at the bottom of the page, if you wish to authorize us to send your child's number to the Department of Education. Please mail or hand-deliver the form below to the principal of your school. If you choose not to opt-in, do not send in the form; and we will not provide your child's Social Security number to the State. There will be no adverse effect for choosing not to opt-in.

I authorize M.S.A.D. No.75 to provide the Maine Department of Education with the Social Security number[s] of my child[ren]. I understand that this number will be used by the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Department of Labor to track data about my child from early childhood through college and the work force.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Print Name

Date

The information below this line will be destroyed after the Maine Department of Education receives it

Student Name

Grade

Social Security Number

In 2009 the Maine Legislature passed a law, Chapter 448, that authorizes the Maine Commissioner of Education to require local school units to request that parents provide students' Social Security numbers to their schools. The Social Security numbers collected will be entered into the State's electronic student information data system. The Law requires the Department of Education to develop a longitudinal data system to compile data throughout a child's educational career and beyond to be put with data from other federal and agencies to look for correlations between a student's K-12 education and his/her post-graduation work, military, and/or school experiences. The Social Security number is the most commonly available national identifying number for U.S. citizens.

At its August 26, 2010, meeting the Board of Directors approved the following resolution in opposition to the use of Social Security numbers for these purposes. Please know that each parent of a student will receive a letter describing the Law and the "opt-in" provision. If parents wish to have us send the Social Security number of their child/children to the State, they must fill out the form they will receive and return it to their child's school. If they wish not to have the number used, they will not send in the form. Choosing not to submit the form will have no adverse effect on the child or the parent.

RESOLUTION

**Approved by M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors
August 26, 2010**

The Board of Directors of M.S.A.D. No. 75 is opposed to the collection of personally identifiable information, namely Social Security numbers, by the Maine Department of Education for its MEDMS data base. It is the State's contention that such information is necessary for tracking student performance and behavior before and after graduation; that this information is "essential for evaluating the effectiveness of educational programs and curriculum in impacting post-secondary and labor market outcomes." It is intended to link this information with the Department of Labor.

Maine DOE is not required or authorized to collect this information under federal or Maine law. The District believes that holding such information in a State data base makes it vulnerable to unintended disclosure. Such disclosure could easily create damaging consequences for the identified individuals.

The Board asks that the Legislature rescind PL Chapter 448 (LD 1356). Until rescinded, the Board will advise parents of its stance and of the "opt-in" nature of this expectation. A provision of the Law establishes this as an opt-in program. Under the opt-in program, parents are not required to provide Social Security numbers to schools. In 1974, Congress passed the Privacy Act Public Law (93-579), finding that the right to privacy is a personal and fundamental right protected by the U. S Constitution; when government agencies collect, use and disseminate private information, privacy is put at risk.

M.S.A.D. No. 75 will add the following language to its Family Education Rights and Privacy Act notice:

“M.S.A.D. No. 75 is required by the Commissioner of Education to collect and report Social Security numbers as a way to provide school units with data about the long-term effectiveness of teaching and programs from early childhood through to college and the work force. The expectation to provide Social Security numbers to the Maine Department of Education is not required by either State or federal law. In order to comply with the State’s expectation, M.S.A.D. No. 75 must ask for parents to provide written consent to use their Social Security number for these purposes. Parents are not required to provide a Social Security number. If a parent does not provide a Social Security number, the child will still be enrolled in school. No child’s Social Security number may be used for longitudinal data purposes without parent consent. When the student turns 18 years of age, written consent must be obtained from the student, and the rights previously accorded to the parent are accorded to the student. In cases where the parents or student elect not to provide a Social Security number, the District will leave that field blank in the data base.”