

FERPA

Excerpt from memorandum issued by the US Department of Education, concerning FERPA regulations as they relate to student Social Security numbers.

“FERPA contains several exceptions to the general rule that education records may not be disclosed without prior, written parental consent. One exception allows for disclosures to authorized representatives of the Secretary of Education, the Comptroller General, the Attorney General, and state and local educational authorities. Such a disclosure must be made in connection with an audit or evaluation of a Federal or State supported education program. The disclosure may also be made for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements related to the Federal or State education program.

The disclosure of personally identifiable student information by local education agencies and educational institutions to the Labor Department/UI Agency is for the purpose of complying with the performance reporting requirements of Perkins III, and is permissible under FERPA. ED has concluded that the Labor Department/UI Agency can be designated an authorized representative for purposes of compiling and reporting information as required by Perkins III.”