1. Purpose
Data governance is an organizational approach to data and information management that is formalized as a set of policies and procedures that encompass the full life cycle of data; from acquisition, to use, to disposal. Iron County School District takes seriously its moral and legal responsibility to protect student privacy and ensure data security. Utah’s Student Data Protection Act (SDPA), U.C.A §53A-1-1401 requires that Iron County School District adopt a Data Governance Plan.

2. Definitions

2.1. Student Data: Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
As defined in U.C.A. §53A-1-14012, student data that identify or are used by the holder to identify a student, and include, but are not limited to: a student’s first and last name; the first and last name of a student’s family member; a student’s or a student’s family’s home or physical address; a student’s email address or other online contact information; a student’s telephone number; a student’s social security number; a student’s biometric identifier; a student’s health or disability data; a student’s education entity student identification number; a student’s social media “User Name” and password or alias; if associated with (PII) student data, a student’s persistent identifier, including a customer number held in a cookie, or a processor serial number, or a MAC address; a combination of a student’s last name, or email address, or photograph with other information that together permits a person to contact the student online; information about a student or a student’s family that a person collects online and combines with other (PII) student data to identify the student; and other information that is linked to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have first-hand knowledge of the student, to identify the student with reasonable certainty.


2.2. Student Data: De-identified or Aggregate
3. Scope and Applicability
This plan is applicable to all employees, temporary employees, and contractors of the District. The plan must be used to assess agreements made to disclose data to third-parties. This plan must also be used to assess the risk of conducting business. In accordance with Iron County School District’s policy and procedures, this plan will be reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis, as needed. This plan is designed to ensure only authorized disclosure of confidential information.

4. Plan
The following Five (5) subsections provide data governance plans and processes for Iron County School District:

1. Data Security and Privacy Training for Employees
2. Data Disclosure
3. Record Retention and Expungement
4. Data Quality
5. Transparency

The Iron County School District Data Governance Plan works in conjunction with the district’s IT Systems Security Policy, which:

- Requires Data Stewards to manage confidential information appropriately and in accordance with all legal mandates, Utah State Board administrative rules, District policies and procedures.
- Complies with all legal, regulatory, and contractual obligations regarding privacy of Agency data. Where such requirements exceed the specific stipulation of this plan, the legal, regulatory, or contractual obligation shall take precedence.
- Ensures that all Iron County School District employees comply with the policy and undergo annual security training (per district training policies and procedures).
- Provides policies and processes for maintaining industry standard information and physical security safeguards to protect student data.

Furthermore, Iron County School District Data Governance Plan also works in conjunction with the district’s Data Breach Response Plan, which:

- Defines the goals and the vision for the breach response process.
- Defines to whom it applies and under what circumstances,
● Defines a breach, staff roles and responsibilities, standards and metrics (e.g., to enable prioritization of the incidents), as well as reporting, remediation, and feedback mechanisms.

● Emphasizes Iron County School District’s established culture of openness, trust and integrity.

4.1. Privacy Training for Employees

Iron County School District will provide a range of training opportunities for all district employees with access to student educational data or confidential educator records in order to minimize the risk of human error and misuse of information.

As defined in U.C.A §53A-13-303, all employees will be required to participate in an privacy training as part of the annual compliance training. Completion of Iron County School District’s compliance training is a condition of employment.

4.2. Data Disclosure

Providing data to persons and entities outside of the Iron County School District increases transparency, promotes education in Utah, and increases knowledge about Utah public education. This plan establishes the protocols and procedures for sharing data maintained by Iron County School District. It is intended to be consistent with the disclosure provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 34 CFR Part 99 and Utah’s Student Data Protection Act (SDPA), U.C.A §53A-1-1401.

4.2.1. Parental Access to Educational Records

In accordance with FERPA regulations 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (a)(1) (A) (B) (C) and (D), LEAs will provide parents with access to their child’s education records, or an eligible student access to his or her own education records (excluding information on other students, the financial records of parents, and confidential letters of recommendation if the student has waived the right to access), within 45 days of receiving an official request. Iron County School District is not required to provide data that it does not maintain, nor is Iron County School District required to create education records in response to an eligible student’s request.

4.2.2. Third Party Vendor access to Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Student Data

Third party vendors may have access to (PII) Student Data if the vendor is designated as a “school official” as defined in FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(1) and 99.7(a)(3)(iii).

All third-party vendors contracting with Iron County School District must be compliant with Utah’s Student Data Protection Act (SDPA), U.C.A §53A-1-1401. Vendors
determined not to be compliant may not be allowed to enter into future contracts
with Iron County School District without third-party verification that they are
compliant with federal and state law, and board rule.

4.2.3. Governmental Agency Requests
The requesting governmental agency must provide evidence of the federal or state
requirements to share data in order to satisfy FERPA disclosure exceptions to data
without consent in the case of a federal or state:

A. Reporting requirement
B. Audit
C. Evaluation

The Coordinator of Data and Statistics will ensure the proper data disclosure avoidance
are included if necessary.

4.2.4. Research Projects requesting Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
Student Data
The Iron County School District recognizes good research as a building block for
understanding and improving education. Iron County School District will only share
(PII) Student Data with outside entities for the purpose of research projects in
accordance with State and Federal Law when data authorization is given by a parent
or eligible student as defined in FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(1), 99.7(a)(3)(iii) and U.C.A
§53A-1-1401. In addition, when sharing (PII) Student Data with outside entities, Iron
County School District shall obtain agreements with recipients of student data where
recipients agree not to report or publish data in a manner that discloses students'idents.

4.2.5. Research Projects requesting Non-Personally Identifiable Information
Student Data
Iron County School District may accept external data requests from individuals or
organizations requesting Non-Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Student Data or
Information that has been sufficiently de-identified for the purpose of research.

4.2.6. Directory Information
Iron County School District may disclose directory information as prescribed in FERPA,
34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(1), 99.7(a)(3)(iii) and U.C.A §53A-1-1401. Parents or eligible
students may opt-out of directory information disclosure.

4.2.7. Marketing
In accordance with U.C.A §53A-1-1401 and Utah Administrative Rule R277-487-6; Data
maintained by Iron County School District, including data provided by contractors, may
not be sold or used for marketing purposes (except with regard to authorized uses or
directory information not obtained through a contract with an educational agency or institution).

4.3. Research Application Process

4.3.1. Priority

Priority is given to projects that:

A. Yield useful products or data for our schools.
B. Align with District programs, goals, and mission.
C. Are conducted by Iron County School District staff in pursuit of advanced degrees.
D. Are not intrusive or interrupt classroom/school activities.

Low priority is given to projects that:

A. Study domains extraneous to improving the quality of teaching and learning.
B. Study domains that are inconsistent with the goals and mission of the District.
C. Include market research which does not relate to the District’s long-range objectives.
D. Include longitudinal research which requires tracking subjects and data from year to year.
E. Include topics unrelated to District programs.
F. Invade the privacy of subjects or pose unjustified risk.

4.3.2. Application Procedures
A completed application must include the follow items listed below. Please allow 2-3 weeks for a decision once completed materials have been received.

1. A completed Research Project Request (Form 521). (You may reference details from your research proposal on the application.)
2. Copy of your research proposal.
3. Copy of all interview protocols, surveys, questionnaires, observation guides, etc.
4. Copy of all disclosures and consent forms.
5. Copy of the IRB approval (or documentation that IRB approval is pending)
6. Copy of the vita or resume of the investigator(s). (Optional)
All Application materials should be submitted to:

Troy Lunt  
Technology Director / Student Data Manager  
Iron County School District  
2077 W Royal Hunte Dr  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
troy.lunt@ironmail.org  
(435) 586-2804

4.3.3. Review Process
Iron County School District’s Director of Assessment & Research will review each request and determine which requests will be fulfilled based on priorities as established above, risk to students personal data, district policy, and established state and federal laws.

4.4. Record Retention and Expungement

Upon written request of the student and in accordance with U.C.A §53A-1-1407, Iron County School District shall expunge the student’s specific (personally identifiable) data in the active database (Student Information System) if the student is at least 23 years old. However, as required by Federal Regulations 2 CFR 11 215.53, all records related to Federal grant funds and compliance shall be retained by Iron County School District for at least three years (or longer when under an audit exception) after the completion of the activity for which the funds were used. Iron County School District will maintain the written request for any expungement. Iron County School District may expunge medical records and behavioral test assessments in the active database when they are no longer needed. Iron County School District will not expunge student records of grades, transcripts, a record of the student’s enrollment, assessment information or backups archives where data is compressed and highly intertwined in such a way that separation is impracticable.

4.5. Data Quality

Data quality is achieved when information is valid for the use to which it is applied, is consistent with other reported data and users of the data have confidence in and rely upon it. Good data quality does not solely exist with the data itself, but is also a function of appropriate data interpretation and use and the perceived quality of the data. Thus, true data quality involves not just those auditing, cleaning and reporting the data, but also data consumers. Data quality at is addressed in five areas:

4.5.1. Data Governance Structure
The Iron County School District data governance plan is structured to encourage the effective and appropriate use of educational data. The Iron County School District
data governance structure centers on the idea that data is the responsibility of all Iron County School District departments and schools and that data driven decision making is the goal of all data collection, storage, reporting and analysis. Data driven decision making guides what data is collected, reported and analyzed.

4.5.2. Data Collection
When possible and to avoid data duplication, data is collected at the lowest level available.

4.6. Transparency

Annually, Iron County School District will publically post:

- Iron County School District data collections
- Metadata Dictionary as described in Utah’s Student Data Protection Act (SDPA), U.C.A 553A-1-1401