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Title 34 – Education

Subtitle A – Office of the Secretary, Department of Education

Part 98 Student Rights in Research, Experimental Programs, and Testing

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PART 98—STUDENT RIGHTS IN RESEARCH, EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS, AND TESTING

Authority: Sec. 514(a) of Pub. L. 93-380, 88 Stat. 574 (20 U.S.C. 1232h(a)); sec. 1250 of Pub. L. 95-561, 92 Stat. 2355-2356 (20 U.S.C. 1232h(b)); and sec. 408(a)(1) of Pub. L. 90-247, 88 Stat. 559-560, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1)); sec. 414(a) of Pub. L. 96-88, 93 Stat. 685 (20 U.S.C. 3474(a)), unless otherwise noted.

Source: 49 FR 35321, Sept. 6, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 98.1 Applicability of part.

This part applies to any program administered by the Secretary of Education that:

(a)

- (1) Was transferred to the Department by the Department of Education Organization Act (DEOA); and
- (2) Was administered by the Education Division of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on the day before the effective date of the DEOA; or

(b) Was enacted after the effective date of the DEOA, unless the law enacting the new Federal program has the effect of making section 439 of the General Education Provisions Act inapplicable.

(c) The following chart lists the funded programs to which part 98 does not apply as of February 16, 1984.

Name of program	Authorizing statute	Implementing regulations
1. High School Equivalency Program and College Assistance Migrant Program	Section 418A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Education Amendments of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-374) 20 U.S.C. 1070d-2)	part 206.
2. Programs administered by the Commissioner of the Rehabilitative Services Administration	The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended by Pub. L. 95-602 (29 U.S.C. 700, <i>et seq.</i>)	parts 351-356, 361, 362, 365, 366, 369-375, 378, 379, 385-390, and 395.
3. College housing	Title IV of the Housing Act of 1950 as amended (12 U.S.C. 1749, <i>et seq.</i>)	part 614.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1), 1230, 1232h, 3487, 3507)

§ 98.2 Definitions.

(a) The following terms used in this part are defined in 34 CFR part 77; “Department,” “Recipient,” “Secretary.”

(b) The following definitions apply to this part:

Act means the General Education Provisions Act.

Office means the information and investigation office specified in § 98.5.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1))

§ 98.3 Access to instructional material used in a research or experimentation program.

(a) All instructional material—including teachers' manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary instructional material—which will be used in connection with any research or experimentation program or project shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the children engaged in such program or project.

(b) For the purpose of this part *research or experimentation program or project* means any program or project in any program under § 98.1 (a) or (b) that is designed to explore or develop new or unproven teaching methods or techniques.

(c) For the purpose of the section *children* means persons not above age 21 who are enrolled in a program under § 98.1 (a) or (b) not above the elementary or secondary education level, as determined under State law.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1), 1232h(a))

§ 98.4 Protection of students' privacy in examination, testing, or treatment.

- (a) No student shall be required, as part of any program specified in § 98.1 (a) or (b), to submit without prior consent to psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment, or psychological examination, testing, or treatment, in which the primary purpose is to reveal information concerning one or more of the following:
- (1) Political affiliations;
 - (2) Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his or her family;
 - (3) Sex behavior and attitudes;
 - (4) Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
 - (5) Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
 - (6) Legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
 - (7) Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under a program.
- (b) As used in paragraph (a) of this section, *prior consent* means:
- (1) Prior consent of the student, if the student is an adult or emancipated minor; or
 - (2) Prior written consent of the parent or guardian, if the student is an unemancipated minor.
- (c) As used in paragraph (a) of this section:
- (1) ***Psychiatric or psychological examination or test*** means a method of obtaining information, including a group activity, that is not directly related to academic instruction and that is designed to elicit information about attitudes, habits, traits, opinions, beliefs or feelings; and
 - (2) ***Psychiatric or psychological treatment*** means an activity involving the planned, systematic use of methods or techniques that are not directly related to academic instruction and that is designed to affect behavioral, emotional, or attitudinal characteristics of an individual or group.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1232h(b))

§ 98.5 Information and investigation office.

- (a) The Secretary has designated an office to provide information about the requirements of section 439 of the Act, and to investigate, process, and review complaints that may be filed concerning alleged violations of the provisions of the section.
- (b) The following is the name and address of the office designated under paragraph (a) of this section: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1231e-3(a)(1), 1232h)

§ 98.6 Reports.

The Secretary may require the recipient to submit reports containing information necessary to resolve complaints under section 439 of the Act and the regulations in this part.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1), 1232h)

§ 98.7 Filing a complaint.

- (a) Only a student or a parent or guardian of a student directly affected by a violation under Section 439 of the Act may file a complaint under this part. The complaint must be submitted in writing to the Office.
- (b) The complaint filed under paragraph (a) of this section must—
 - (1) Contain specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of either § 98.3 or § 98.4 exists; and
 - (2) Include evidence of attempted resolution of the complaint at the local level (and at the State level if a State complaint resolution process exists), including the names of local and State officials contacted and significant dates in the attempted resolution process.
- (c) The Office investigates each complaint which the Office receives that meets the requirements of this section to determine whether the recipient or contractor failed to comply with the provisions of section 439 of the Act.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1880-0507)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1), 1232h)

§ 98.8 Notice of the complaint.

- (a) If the Office receives a complaint that meets the requirements of § 98.7, it provides written notification to the complainant and the recipient or contractor against which the violation has been alleged that the complaint has been received.
- (b) The notice to the recipient or contractor under paragraph (a) of this section must:
 - (1) Include the substance of the alleged violation; and
 - (2) Inform the recipient or contractor that the Office will investigate the complaint and that the recipient or contractor may submit a written response to the complaint.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(A)(1), 1232h)

§ 98.9 Investigation and findings.

- (a) The Office may permit the parties to submit further written or oral arguments or information.
- (b) Following its investigations, the Office provides to the complainant and recipient or contractor written notice of its findings and the basis for its findings.
- (c) If the Office finds that the recipient or contractor has not complied with section 439 of the Act, the Office includes in its notice under paragraph (b) of this section:
 - (1) A statement of the specific steps that the Secretary recommends the recipient or contractor take to comply; and
 - (2) Provides a reasonable period of time, given all of the circumstances of the case, during which the recipient or contractor may comply voluntarily.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1), 1232h)

§ 98.10 Enforcement of the findings.

- (a) If the recipient or contractor does not comply during the period of time set under § 98.9(c), the Secretary may either:
 - (1) For a recipient, take an action authorized under 34 CFR part 78, including:
 - (i) Issuing a notice of intent to terminate funds under 34 CFR 78.21;
 - (ii) Issuing a notice to withhold funds under 34 CFR 78.21, 200.94(b), or 298.45(b), depending upon the applicable program under which the notice is issued; or
 - (iii) Issuing a notice to cease and desist under 34 CFR 78.31, 200.94(c) or 298.45(c), depending upon the program under which the notice is issued; or
 - (2) For a contractor, direct the contracting officer to take an appropriate action authorized under the Federal Acquisition Regulations, including either:
 - (i) Issuing a notice to suspend operations under 48 CFR 12.5; or
 - (ii) Issuing a notice to terminate for default, either in whole or in part under 48 CFR 49.102.
- (b) If, after an investigation under § 98.9, the Secretary finds that a recipient or contractor has complied voluntarily with section 439 of the Act, the Secretary provides the complainant and the recipient or contractor written notice of the decision and the basis for the decision.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1), 1232h)