

Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee,

I urge you to support HB 2715. This bill would prohibit a school district employee or volunteer from posting, publishing or making publicly available personally identifiable information in relation to results of performance-based assessment.

A year ago, Washington Post columnist Valerie Straus wrote about how “data walls” violate the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.^[1] Earnestly implementing “data-driven” instruction, schools have forgotten that posting this kind of information can be humiliating. It takes one parent or one custodian to compromise the sanctuary of administrative offices if they see children’s names on a wall of shame.

Frankly, this is common sense and decency. It’s a shame that this kind of legislation has to be passed to make sure that schools respect kids’ privacy.

[1] <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/02/21/how-some-school-data-walls-violate-u-s-privacy-law/>

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