



|| State Redaction Rules

IDAHO CODE § 74-104(1)

Idaho Code § 74-104(1), exempts from disclosure information or records specifically provided for exemption by state or federal law, including, at a minimum, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, at 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., and their implementing regulations, including, but not limited to, 34 CFR Part 99 and 300, respectively, as well as the Idaho Student Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2014, at Idaho Code § 33-133.

Under the authority contained in Idaho Code § 33-133(3)(b), responsibility for establishing rules for the protection of student privacy was granted to the State Board of Education, which established the Data Management Council to develop and monitor student privacy protection rules.

Based on those rules, in order to protect student privacy, we must redact data in any cells of less than 5 students or where the difference between the total of one or more cells of categorical data is less than 5 of the total student population.

In addition, Data Management Council Policies and Procedures call for at least two cells to be redacted in most cases where any total is available, in order to prevent any cell required for redaction to be derived. Under DMC policy additional cells may be required to be redacted until the total of the exempt and therefore redacted aggregate data in a line or column equals 5 or more. Zero is considered a number.

State Department of Education spreadsheets uses a “blurring” system to protect student privacy. Cells that meet the standard less than five redaction rule are reported using the “NSIZE” notation. Cells are also blurred (indicated by “>” or “<” notations) when the cell itself meets the n size requirement, but cannot be disclosed based on its relationship to another cell that is redacted. Please be aware that the blurred results are always true (e.g. a cell listed with < 25% will have a real value of under 25%), but do not include an indication of how much above or below the listed value the actual percentage falls.

For more information about redaction policies and procedures, including the procedures contained in Idaho Code § 74-103(4) for objecting to any redactions, contact the State Department of Education’s Communications Specialist for Public Records by calling the department at 332-6800.