*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

June 24, 2021

Dear Program Directors,

I hope that you are able to relax and enjoy some well-deserved time off this summer. I am writing with two data related updates.

First, the Department's Office of the General Counsel determined that the current release of information (ROI) form did not meet FERPA requirements because it only addresses employment and wage information obtained through data matching. The revised form expands consent to include high school equivalency (GED and HiSET) test results and postsecondary enrollments.

FERPA allows DESE to meet federal reporting requirements by matching student personally identifiable information (PII) with the Massachusetts Departments of Unemployment Assistance and Higher Education, Pearson GED and ETS (HiSET), and the National Student Clearing House. Data matched outcomes are stored securely at DESE and aggregated for federal reports.

Students who sign the revised ROI form consent to have DESE update their LACES records with employment data, HSE test results, and postsecondary enrollment information obtained via data matching.

The new ROI form will be translated into 30 languages. All will be posted on the [LACES area of the ACLS website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/acls/laces/release-form/) this summer. I have attached the English version. Just enter your program name into the two content control fields and print. LiteracyPro Systems is updating the student intake accordingly.

Second, here is a screenshot—I apologize for its low quality—of a new optional prompt in the student intake screen:

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

As always, feel free to contact me directly with suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Thank you,

Toby