



What We Heard Report
Proposed Amendments to the *Student
Records Regulations*

APRIL 2026

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Executive Summary

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is modernizing the *Education Act*. *Education Act* modernization is one part of the GNWT's work to increase student education outcomes to the same level as the rest of Canada.

This *What We Heard Report* provides a summary of the feedback received following stakeholder and public engagement of proposed amendments to the *Student Record Regulations*.

Why amend *Student Records Regulations*?

The *Student Records Regulations* coincide with the requirement for education bodies in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to comply with the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (ATIPPA). The regulations provide direction to education bodies and schools to ensure that their records management procedures are consistent with ATIPPA. In addition, the *Education Act* legislates some procedures for managing the Student Record.

During the 19th Legislative Assembly, Bill 81: *An Act to Amend the Education Act, No. 2* (Bill 81) received assent. Amendments to several regulations are required before the bill can be fully brought into force. This includes amendments to the *Student Records Regulations* to establish mechanisms for the exchange of information between education bodies and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

Changes made through Bill 81 are meant to address technical challenges in the current education system, such as resolving conflicting authorities and enabling timely Ministerial access to information about the performance of the Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 (JK-12) education system and student outcomes. Bill 81 establishes two methods by which information may be shared with ECE:

1. the Minister is permitted to access student records for the purposes of evaluating school programs and monitoring student progress;
2. school staff may disclose information from a student record to an education body or to ECE.

These proposed updates are in part due to findings of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, which identified areas of improvement for the GNWT to collect and use data to monitor the education system, identify and address gaps, and ensure the system is working toward improving student outcomes. In addition to proposed changes made through Bill 81, some amendments have been made to align with NWT Curriculum Renewal and could be made without bringing Bill 81 into force.

The proposed updates to the *Student Records Regulations* will improve data exchange between education bodies and the GNWT and align the regulations with the transition to the new NWT adapted curriculum. The updated regulations will improve data access, define who can consult Student Records and how that information can be used. These changes will help the GNWT make

informed decisions that will improve NWT student outcomes.

Consultation and Engagement

ECE engaged with education bodies and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA) on the proposed changes to the regulations during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

Proposed changes to the regulations were made public from December 11, 2024, to January 24, 2025. Prior to this posting, education bodies and the NWTTA had the opportunity to notify staff should they wish to provide feedback.

The public engagement was extended beyond 30 days to accommodate statutory holidays, ensuring the public had sufficient time to provide feedback. During the public engagement period, the Department sought input and feedback from Indigenous governments, professionals, stakeholders and the public on the proposed amendments.

The draft amendments and a plain language summary were made available to the public on the [GNWT's Have Your Say](#) website to support discussion and feedback:

- [Student Record Regulations – Draft Amendments](#)
- [Plain language summary – Student Records Regulations](#)

What We Heard

ECE received feedback on the amendments by email and letter. Summaries of the responses are provided below and are organized into the following feedback focus areas:

- Exchange of Information;
- Use of Student Information; and
- School Staff Permission for Student Record Disclosure.

This report provides a summary of comments received during the public engagement period only. Any additional feedback received following the engagement period will still be considered by ECE when moving forward with this work.

Responses

Exchange of Information

- A concern was raised about the process of releasing personal student information and what protections the GNWT would put in place to protect students' private information.

- A respondent indicated they did not agree with the proposed changes due to a concern with the potential of confidentiality breaches in NWT due to its small population size.
- A request was made for the GNWT to commit to privacy and security requirements that are appropriately resourced.

Use of Student Information

- In response to amendments in Subsection 7.11(1), a respondent questioned why the Minister would need personal information on a student (i.e., phone number and address) if the changes are for assessment purposes and to follow progress on student programs.
- Two respondents commented that there are many ways to evaluate school programs without sharing personal student data and that general data can be used to evaluate and support the system.
- Two respondents noted the need for parental consent for sharing personal student information. One respondent suggested parental consent for information sharing be added to the Student Registration form used by education bodies and schools.

School Staff Permissions for Student Record Disclosure

- A concern was raised that the statement “permit school staff to disclose information in a student record to an education body or to ECE” was broad, has no rationale, and should only be shared with the permission of the student or their guardian.

Next Steps

Following the public engagement process, ECE will review submitted feedback to determine if revisions to the regulations are required. The What We Heard Report will be shared with Education Bodies and the NWTTA for any final feedback. ECE will work with the Department of Justice to finalize the proposed regulations, which will come into force as soon as practicable along with related sections of Bill 81.