Port Orford-Langlois School District

Code: EHA
Adopted:

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

(For districts that bill for Medicaid or use a contracted service – ESD or other – to bill for Medicaid and also self-insure a health plan and/or self-administer an Internal Revenue Service Section 125 Plan)

The Board has determined that it meets the definition of a hybrid of covered entities[1] under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). As the district offers health care provider programs and services that include electronic billing for the reimbursement of services under Oregon Medicaid programs, or contracts with another entity to provide such services, it is subject to HIPAA. In all electronic transactions involving student education records information, the district will adhere to the transaction requirements of HIPAA and the confidentiality requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Additionally, because the district self-insures a health plan and self-administers an Internal Revenue Service Section 125 plan it also meets the health plan definition under HIPAA. Accordingly, the district will safeguard the protected health information[2] of employees from use or disclosure that may violate standards and implementation specifications to the extent required by law.

As a covered entity, the district will meet the national electronic transaction standards and applicable requirements of federal law designed to ensure the security of protected health information of employees and student education record information created or received by the district.

In order to meet the notice requirements under the health care provider provisions of the law, information will be provided to students and parents of their rights under FERPA in accordance with established procedures as set forth in Board policies JO/IGBAB - Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities, JOA - Directory Information, JOB - Personally Identifiable Information and related administrative regulations.

The superintendent will designate an individual responsible for responding to HIPAA inquiries, complaints and for providing adequate notice of employee rights and district duties under the health plan provisions of the Act. Notice will include the privacy provisions of the law, and uses of employee protected health information and disclosures that may be made by the district.

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[1] A "covered entity" is an entity subject to HIPAA. These include those entities defined under the Act as a health plan, health-care clearinghouse, health care provider or a hybrid entity. A hybrid of covered entities is a single legal entity that is a covered entity and whose covered functions are not its primary function. Self-insured health plans and Internal Revenue Service Section 125 plans with 50 or more participants operated or maintained by public schools entities are covered health plans for HIPAA privacy rule purposes. Similarly, any provider of services, a provider of medical or health services as defined in section 1861 of the Act (42 U.S.C. § 1395X(s)) and any person or organization who furnishes, bills or is paid for health care in the normal course as defined by 45 C.F.R. § 160.103 is also subject to HIPAA requirements as a health care provider. District's should review their programs and services with their legal counsel in determining HIPAA applicability.

[2] "Protected health information" means individually identifiable health information that is: (1) transmitted by electronic media; (2) maintained in electronic media; (3) transmitted or maintained in any other form or medium. Protected health information excludes individually identifiable health information in education records covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and employment records held by a covered entity in its role as employer.

Training will be provided to all current staff and new employees determined by the district to have access to the protected health information of employees and student education records. Training will be provided within a reasonable period of time after the individual's hiring, and to those employees when their duties may be impacted by a change in the district's policy and/or procedures.

Individuals who believe their privacy rights have been violated may file a complaint in accordance with established district procedures. Employee complaints may also be filed directly with the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. There shall be no retaliation by the district against any person who files a complaint or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry into an alleged violation of an individual's protected privacy rights. All complaints received will be promptly investigated and documented, including their final disposition.

The superintendent will ensure that satisfactory assurance has been obtained from any business associate[3] performing HIPAA-covered activities or functions on behalf of the district that the protected health information it receives from the district will be protected. Such assurance will be in the form of a written agreement, or may be included as a part of the district's contract with the business associate.

Employees in violation of this policy or procedures established to safeguard student education records information and the protected health information of employees will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

The superintendent is directed to ensure an assessment of district operations is conducted to determine the extent of the district's responsibilities as a covered entity under HIPAA and to develop internal controls and procedures necessary to implement this policy and meet the requirements of law. The procedures shall include provisions for record keeping, documentation of the district's compliance efforts and appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to protect the privacy of student education records and employee protected health information and to ensure that any request is limited to information reasonably necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the request is made.

In the event of a change in the law that may impact this policy or established district procedures, the superintendent shall ensure appropriate revisions are recommended for Board approval, necessary changes are implemented and notification is made to staff and others, as appropriate.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 332.107

[3] A "business associate" means a person who on behalf of such covered entity or of an organized health care arrangement in which the covered entity participates, but other than in the capacity of a member of the workforce of such covered entity or arrangement, performs or assists in the performance of: (1) a function or activity involving the use or disclosure of individually identifiable health information, including claims processing or administration, data analysis, processing or administration, utilization review, quality assurance, billing, benefit management, practice management and repricing; or (2) any other function or activity regulated by HIPAA.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1320d to -1320d-8 (2012); 45 C.F.R. Parts 160, 164 (2016).
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (2012); Family Educational Rights and Privacy, 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (2016).

PROPOSED