

Utah State Office of Education**SAGE Testing and Data Reporting****Accurate, Transparent Reporting, and Data Privacy**

The transparent and accurate reporting of SAGE scores and student data privacy is a critical function of the Utah State Office of Education. Accurate, relevant, and timely data can inform policy makers and educators in setting goals, targeting interventions, identifying strengths, making policy, and monitoring progress balanced by privacy concerns and proper data use.

The Utah State Office of Education strictly follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, which is the main federal law that deals with privacy in schools. However, there are a host of other laws, best practices, and guidelines that are essential to understanding education privacy. USOE has developed a data governance structure based on proven data governance practices and educational data needs. The USOE data governance structure centers on the idea that data is the responsibility of all USOE sections and that data-driven decision making is the goal of all data collection, storage, reporting and analysis. Data-driven decision making guides what data is collected, reported and analyzed by authorized personnel only.

More information can be found at <http://schools.utah.gov/data/Resources/DataGovernanceManagement.aspx>

Privacy of Student Records Collected and Maintained by USOE**Statutory Authority:**

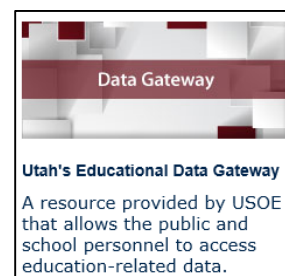
To meet their statutory responsibilities, local districts, through their *student information systems*, collect and securely report the personally identifiable information from the education records of Utah students. Such information may include the following indicators listed below to ensure equitable educational outcomes for all students. This data is only shared in the aggregate (not personally identifiable) with vested stakeholders. Please keep in mind:

- USOE has maintained a student level data warehouse since 1998.
- USOE has reported aggregate (not student level) data to the federal government since the 1970s.
- SAGE computer adaptive assessment system does not change any of the data that are collected or reported.
- USOE collects from local districts a variety of information on Utah students, including name, date of birth, race/ethnicity, gender, special education, performance on state assessments, status related to English language proficiency, students who qualify for free/reduced lunch, grades, credits, enrollments, school, and district.

Public Reporting:

Required data reports using student data are only provided in the aggregate, meaning only state, district, and school and level data. Data gathered by the USOE are used at a school and state level for many important purposes, including:

- Assessing Utah school students' attendance, performance and progress.
- Calculating and reporting the School Grades, PACE Report Card, and Federal Accountability Systems.
- Calculating and reporting graduation rates.
- Generating public reporting views through the Data Gateway.
- Determining school funding.



Summative SAGE Testing Results:

Beginning in the spring of 2014, Utah students took one or more SAGE assessments measuring their knowledge of the Utah Core Standards. SAGE has created exciting opportunities and challenges for student's teachers and administrators who use SAGE data carefully and responsibly. As educators, we are obligated to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills fairly and accurately.

Some meaningful assessment is required to assess the extent of student progress toward proficiency; accurate, understandable reporting is required so that all stakeholders in Utah education have the data needed for making effective decisions concerning school policies, programs, and curricula.

While it is legal for parents to exclude students from state mandated assessments, parents should consider carefully these decisions as the data obtained in these assessments are utilized by teachers and administrators to review student progress toward learning targets, plan instruction, provide teacher feedback, inform potential course placement, provide important achievement data to students and parents, and allow for public reporting about school quality.

Reported Results of Utah summative SAGE testing can vary depending on the purpose of the data reporting. There are three main categories of reporting used by the State Office of Education:

1. Raw Results

- Raw test results are immediately available through the *Online Reporting System* of the SAGE assessment system when a student completes the assessment. These results are for teachers, schools, and districts, and include all students who were assigned to take a test. Teachers and schools can use this feedback to guide instruction. Teachers may share this information with a child's parent or guardian only.

2. Public Data Gateway

- These data can be viewed publically at the school, district, and state levels only in aggregate form. Test results are provided through the public Data Gateway for the all interested parties. These include all tests that students participated in and completed, including students with allowable accommodations with disabilities. All other tests that were deemed by the district to be only partially completed, or for students that were no longer in a course to take a test, absent, parent opted out, English Learners (ELs) who are in the first year of the school system, etc., would not be included in these data.

3. Accountability

- For school accountability purposes, a different set of inclusion rules will apply and be reported at the school level only. Schools must first meet a participation requirement of testing 95% of all students enrolled at their school at the time of test administration. A student is considered to have participated in a test if they were enrolled at the time of the test and were not absent or excused, followed by the specific inclusion rules for students with disabilities and English Learners. Students whose parents opt them out of testing will not be counted as participants in the State's School Grading accountability system; however, they are counted as participants under the federal UCAS system.

- For academic achievement, students who were present for 160 days of instruction are included. Growth and proficiency are both calculated for the entire school and again for students who were not yet proficient. In addition, annual measurable objective targets are reported at the subgroup level, which includes the following groups with n sizes of ten or greater: All students, Asian, African American, American Indian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, Economically Disadvantaged, English Learners, and Students with disabilities.

SAGE and AIR Information:

The American Institutes of Research (AIR) is the current large scale testing vendor that assists in the administration of the SAGE test. The data exchanged between USOE and AIR is frequently reviewed by trained USOE staff in Assessment/Accountability, Information Technology, and Data and Statistics offices. The minimal data set includes elements essential to provide both test administration and reporting functions of the SAGE Summative, Interim, and Formative systems. AIR **only** provides analysis on student responses, makes aggregate judgements about student assessment performance, and identifies strengths and weaknesses through its reporting system to classes and schools related to their understanding of Utah standards. **No** information is collected at the USOE nor analyzed based on factors such as political affiliations, attitudes, religious practices, psychological or behavior testing, student e-mail addresses, or social security numbers or anything of the kind. Utah's SAGE assessment system is designed for the specific *purpose* of measuring student mastery of Utah Core Standards only. The SAGE assessment tests for the multiple purposes of system accountability, school improvement, and measurement of individual student or group performance only; and is only one of a multitude of data point teachers and schools use to inform instruction of Utah's public school students.

For more information, please contact:

Rich Nye

Associate Superintendent; Assessment, Accountability, and Information Systems

Jo Ellen Shaeffer

Director; Assessment and Accountability

Utah State Office of Education