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The Data Foundation supports the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2026 data collection with strong privacy protections for identifiable records.

The proposed removal by the Education Department of CIPSEA protections for NAEP data will create mixed privacy standards, likely creating confusion while increasing costs -- and reducing protections for the American public.

Effective use of CIPSEA protections helps bolster public trust in data, and supports decision-makers in government, the business community, and researchers who rely on successful and consistent data privacy standards.

Key Recommendations:

- Maintain existing CIPSEA protections for NAEP 2026
- Build staff capacity instead of weakening data protections, including by working with Congress and OMB to support adequate resources
- Meaningfully engage data users before making major changes

Instead of removing data protections, NCES should invest in the expertise needed to maintain existing data privacy standards and be seeking ways to sustainably protect identifiable information.

See attachment for complete Data Foundation comment.