



A note on redactions

Thank you for taking the time to read this important report. When you review the report, you will find portions that have been redacted (blacked out). Most of the redactions were made in order to protect the privacy of the former students who shared their stories with investigators. This is not just the right thing to do, it is required by Federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. In some cases, a former student made the decision to allow PPS to use some personally identifiable information without redaction.

Other redactions were made to protect the attorney-client privilege that applies to confidential communications between PPS employees and PPS attorneys. It is important that PPS protect this information where appropriate in order to encourage employees to communicate candidly with PPS attorneys.

Additional redactions were made to protect the privacy of certain teacher personnel information. We attempted to limit these redactions to those areas where we are legally obligated, including evaluative and disciplinary materials. All teachers have privacy rights by law in relation to certain information regarding their work performance.

As you read the report, you may conclude that in some cases we have redacted information that you might have learned about elsewhere. PPS has legal privacy obligations that are different from individuals, the news media, and other public bodies. The fact that information has been disclosed by other persons and organizations does not negate PPS's obligation to follow the privacy laws that apply to school districts.

You have the right to petition the district attorney for review of these redactions.