Mr. Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education
University of Connecticut Health Center
Center for Public Health and Health Policy
99 Ash Street MC7160
East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

MAR 15 2011

Dear Mr. McQuillan:

This is in response to your letter, dated April 11, 2010, regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Specifically, you ask about the applicability of FERPA to your proposed approach to sharing education data through the Connecticut Health Information Network (CHIN). We are sending an identical response to the cosigners of your letter.

The Department of Education is working very hard to address the issues that you raise in your letter and similar issues relating to databases. We are unable to provide you with the technical assistance that you are requesting at this time. However, we are in the process of developing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that we expect will respond to some of these questions. Once the NPRM is published in the *Federal Register*, we will notify you so that you may review the proposed changes to FERPA and provide comments on the proposals.

We realize that these issues are of great importance to you and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work in addressing them.

Sincerely,

Ellen Campbell
Acting Director
Family Policy Compliance Office