

## **Federal Court Instructs Ohio School Districts to Post Information Data Release for Parents**

A U.S. District court has ordered that 2013-14 school year records from the Ohio Department of Education's Educational Management Information System (EMIS) be turned over to Disability Rights Ohio as part of an ongoing lawsuit.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, families of students whose data will be released must be notified and given the opportunity to object. The court has instructed all school districts to post notice about this opportunity to object on their district websites and in a central location accessible to the public in each building that is open to the public.

Students' names, addresses and social security numbers are **not** part of the information to be released. Ohio is one of only three states that do not allow their departments of education to collect this data to protect student privacy.

Data to be released for each student include student ID number, school name, grade, gender, race, age, and disability category. The records also reveal student performance on the state's Ohio Achievement Assessments and Ohio Graduation Tests, as well as tests related to Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Student suspensions and expulsions are also listed.

The data is subject to a protective order, which means Disability Rights Ohio cannot publicize it. A copy of the notice—which includes instructions on how the parents may object to the data release—is listed below: