



POSITION STATEMENT

Student Data Privacy and Security

Connecticut PTA and the students and families we represent understand the value of collecting student data to support educational outcomes. In a 2015 study, Parental Support for Technology and Data Use in Schools - conducted by the Future of Privacy Forum - parents indicated support for the access to, and. Use of, student data to improve teaching and learning. Yet parents articulated that there must be a clear justification for the need and benefit to access and use their child's data in educational settings. Despite support for the use of student data, parents are concerned about the privacy and security of their child's personally identifiable information and educational record.

Connecticut PTA is deeply committed to the promotion of privacy and security policies that maintain the confidentiality of sensitive data that students and families provide to educational institutions, as well as the data that is collected while using online products and services.

Current federal laws do not contemplate electronic records, online service provided rights and responsibilities or individual electronic student profiles. Therefore, federal laws such as FERP and COPPA must be modernized to better protect student's educational records and the collection of information gathered online to address the growing use of technology and data in education and through the society. Congress must also address the emerging use of service provided who provide online educational resources and tools for children, families and schools to ensure there are adequate parameters around the collection, storage, security and destruction of a child's or student's personally identifiable information and/or educational record.

Connecticut PTA supports the ability of families and students to have reasonable control over the collection warehousing and use of electronic student data, while also supporting the need for research and data analysis to improve student learning outcomes, instructional design and remedial supports. Additionally, Connecticut PTA supports current federal law (COPPA) that requires direct notice to parents and parental consent before an operator collects personally identifiable information and that privacy policies must be clear and accessible to families.

Connecticut PTA opposes the wholesale data-mining of educational records or online profiles for unspent open-ended purposes. The association recognizes educational agencies and institutions as the nexus between parents seeking access to their child's data and the service providers that collect the data within a school setting. In managing this relationship, educational agencies should balance parental rights with educationally sound data uses, like personalized and adaptive learning.

Finally, Connecticut PTA recognizes the important role parents and families play as partners in protecting and ensuring the security of student data. Our association promotes the establishment of and support for policies and procedures that recognize the need for data privacy and security for parents and families.

Connecticut PTA continues to work to inform parents and families on the relevant federal, state and local laws on student data privacy and security, including consent and notification; requires school districts and schools to be transparent and engage with families on the development, implementation and notifications about policies and

procedures related to the privacy and protection of student data in accordance with state and federal privacy laws, including educating students on their right to privacy. We also work to ensure student data is used for authorized educational purposes only, ensure school districts and online services providers' privacy and security policies are clear, easy to read and accessible to all parents and families.

Connecticut PTA will continue to work with school districts in a variety of ways to ensure compliance with privacy law and coordinate the necessary professional development for teachers, principals and any school employee or official who handles student data.

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