

A Learning System for Privacy, Security and Digital Citizenship Infrastructure

Developed by the #COVID-19 Education Coalition's Privacy, Security and Digital Citizenship Working Group

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way that we educate kids by shifting their majority 'brick and mortar' setting to an online delivery model. This shift has put huge new demands on school personnel, parents, technology providers and learners themselves. Before the outbreak, schools faced the challenge of managing hundreds of software applications in their 'brick and mortar' digital ecosystem - and of navigating equitable student participation and engagement in online learning environments. Now, our education system must consider how to structure high quality teaching and learning with technology playing a much larger role.

The new reality is that we are all trying to find our way – in an expedited manner – to help students and all stakeholders transition our education system to exist online. Although we know the importance of getting online educational tools in the hands of practitioners and their students to ensure learning continues during this global challenge, we also know that creating a safe, secure, and healthy system becomes more complex. For example, a great influx of marketplace providers, and their professional organizations, have increased their communications around the value of their tools, including free or limited-time free usage of them during this crisis. While admirable, this only has added complexity to the management of these tools and their use at the district, school, classroom, and individual student levels. This has also posed questions about how to keep technology systems safe, student data protected, and promote good digital decision making from all members of the learning community, including students, parents, teachers/administrators, and marketplace providers.

Even before this crisis, the question of *"what should we be doing about student privacy, security, and digital citizenship?"* was heard coming from more and more learning institutions, parents - and even students themselves. Numerous COVID-19 support organizations are collaborating to help these vested stakeholders to perform their roles by providing tools, guidance and effective practice sharing around some topics that have become even more important in light of increased technology use for learning. Short-term "pain point" solutions can open up long-term privacy and security issues. A carefully curated list of resources is provided so that various stakeholders can more easily find and navigate the content - and determine the "pain point" solutions that work best for them. In other words, this brief is not intended to provide solutions, but empower the reader with good information to determine solutions. These issues must be addressed as part of a larger infrastructure, or framework, within an education system. How all stakeholders in an online learning environment know their rules, responsibilities, and rights is a vital part of ensuring the safe and fair framework for learning.

GOALS

Understand the relationship between privacy and security as well as have models of effective practices in safeguarding student data.

Understand the roles, responsibilities, and rights of students in virtual learning environments.

Understand the numerous stakeholders playing a role in student "data stewardship" and "digital citizenship" (i.e. teachers, administrators, parents, vendors and the students themselves) and how their role is critical for both short- and long-term success.



| | Privacy | Security |
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| What Is It? | Think of student privacy as the right stuff going to the right person - and no one else! Privacy covers how data is collected, maintained, used, and shared by those allowed to have access under an established set of best practices, agreed-upon guidance, or even legislation. | Think of student data security as protecting data from inside or outside forces not allowed to get it! Sort of like the moat and the wall around the castle protecting student data - and attacks are occurring every single day! |
| Why Focus on It? | Student data privacy is not only a legal obligation for school data stewards, it is critical in protecting our youngest citizens. While the way we are educating our youngest citizens has changed dramatically with the current pandemic, the rules, regulations, legal accountability, and expectations schools have around protecting student data privacy have not. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is the guiding law for schools, and the <i>Children's Online Privacy & Protection Act (COPPA)</i> imposes certain requirements on operators of websites or online services directed to children under 13 years of age. | Leaving data exposed to outside access is like leaving a wallet full of money on the front seat of your unlocked convertible with a sign "come get it"! Data hacks, breaches, ransomware, etc. can have immediate and long-term effects on everyone involved. It can slow down an organization's operations, like a school, to a crawl, cause public relations nightmares and even impact a student's ability to buy a house, car or anything else - even before they have a license to drive! Just watch the news each night, and you will hear of multibillion-dollar organizations – and now school districts and state education agencies – getting hacked and having their data stolen or held for ransom. |

What Can I Do About Privacy and Security?

Everyone has a role in providing a safe and secure environment for students online. It does no good to have the BEST moat and castle walls if we leave the bridge down all the time! Teachers, administrators, parents, vendors and students themselves all have important roles in adopting and adhering to sound privacy practices and proper protections for security in online learning environments. Administrators can make sure solid data governance plans are in place, teachers can be made aware of effective practices in data protection, parents can ensure their learners have the newest security software, and learners can become more aware of strategies hackers use to access personal information.

The COVID-19 Education Coalition Privacy, Security and Digital Citizenship working group members include:

National Council for the Social Studies, Student Data Privacy Consortium, Common Sense Media, Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology, Future of Privacy Forum, and Edvolve.



| You | Privacy Role | Privacy Resources | Security Role | Security Resources |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Students | Understand and protect data that might help someone identify and take advantage of you, your location, or other personal information. | USED - FERPA (Eligible Students) ConnectSafely Student Privacy Compass Fordham Privacy Education Program | Realize and identify various strategies hackers use to obtain access to their data. | Kids' Rules for Online Safety NSTeens Security Games |
| Parents | Understand simple ways to protect children's data, what to look for in apps, communicating with your child's school about privacy, and "red flags" you see in some applications. Model for your children responsible stewardship of your own data. | USED Training Used FERPA Guidance Parents' Guide to Student Privacy | Ensure that their learners have the newest security software and can identify some hacker strategies to breach systems. | NetSmartz for Parents FTC-Protecting Kids Online |
| Teacher / Administrator | Understand legal obligations (federal, state, and local legislation) in the school's stewardship role for students and teachers. | Student Privacy "Cheat Sheet" CoSN Privacy Toolkit Educator's Guide to Student Privacy Student Privacy Training | Ensure that the right security tools and measures are in place to prevent outside access to learner and staff data. | USED - Communicating with Parents CoSN - Cybersecurity K-12 Cybersecurity Resource Center NSBA - Data Security for Schools |
| Marketplace Provider | Understand customer legal obligations regarding safeguarding student data and how your products are adhering to "rules of the road." | FTC COPPA FAQs USED - FERPA for Third-Party Providers FERPA FPF Privacy Tips State Privacy Laws | Use the most updated data security technologies in your products and work with their customers on implementing security procedures and effective practices. | Cybersecurity Fact Sheet NIST Cybersecurity Resources |

| Digital Citizenship | |
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| What Is It? | <p>Think of digital citizenship as the decision-making component of technology use. As “citizens of the digital world,” every time we power on, we are faced with a multitude of decisions... and they all have an impact on us as individuals, the community, and society at large! Since there are different types of decisions technology users must make, digital citizenship considers a variety of “strands” such as safety (including privacy and security), responsibility (such as respectful online participation), and even social and civic participation (using technology to make your community better). Digital citizenship is really about understanding the rights and responsibilities of digital participation, and applying them as we use technology and flex our digital decision-making muscles.</p> <p>There are many supporting definitions of the term digital citizenship. See articles from TeachThought, Applied Education Systems, ISTE, and Common Sense Media for examples.</p> |
| Why Focus on It? | Digital citizenship empowers all of us to take control of our own digital behaviors and challenges us to care about the health and safety of each member of digital society. What impact do our digital behaviors today have on us, individually and collectively, tomorrow? |

What Can I Do About Digital Citizenship?

Everyone has a role in “digital citizenship” to prepare all students for college, career, and civic life. Teachers, administrators, parents, vendors and students themselves all have important roles in fostering productive learning engagement in virtual spaces.

| You | Digital Citizenship Role | Digital Citizenship Resources |
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| Students | Be an active and engaged participant in civic life online. Model responsible behaviors and practices in online learning and for general. | Digital Compass - Common Sense Media DigCitCommit - ISTE |
| Parents | Ask your child what they are learning online - and how they are using digital tools for learning. Learn about the various, high-quality online resources available for teaching and learning. | Digital Citizenship Common Sense Education Online Teaching Resources for Teachers and Families Common Sense Media |
| Teacher / Administrator | Align curriculum and instruction to recognized standards for digital citizenship and online learning. Ensure that students learn the principles of digital citizenship across disciplines, grade P-12. | ISTE Standards Youth, Social Media and Digital Civic Engagement - a position statement from the National Council for the Social Studies Edvolve - framework with digital citizenship indicators |
| Marketplace Provider | Review common, national standards and guidelines for digital citizenship. | Digital Citizenship - Kentucky Department of Education News Literacy Project Digital Citizenship - code.org |