



## Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal Fact Sheet

- Parents and other members of school communities are growing increasingly concerned about the collection, use and protection of student data.
- [Seventy-nine percent of parents](#) say privacy of student records is their top concern around technology use in schools, and 76 percent express concerns about how student information is collected and used. As a result, school systems are regularly faced with questions about how they manage their compliance obligations around technology use.
  - Policymakers are also concerned, and they're taking action. [According to the Data Quality Campaign](#), in 2015, 46 states introduced 182 bills related to student data privacy, and 15 states passed 28 new student privacy laws.
- Much of the privacy conversation has landed at the feet of school leaders. They are challenged to create 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments that meet legal data privacy and security requirements and district rules, while explaining to the school community the safeguards in place around student data.
- National education organizations like CoSN (the Consortium for School Networking), AASA, the School Superintendents Association, the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), and ASCD stand at the forefront of helping school systems utilize technology in the classroom and manage their data privacy and security responsibilities. We provide concrete tools to clarify the steps needed to align with the regulatory requirements and set high standards around protecting student data.
  - In July 2015, 28 school systems began working together to define the characteristics of a Trusted Learning Environment.
  - In late September, we asked more than 50 school system technology leaders to validate TLE practices in 5 areas; Leadership, Business, Data Security, Classroom and Professional Development. The response was overwhelmingly positive in validating the work.
- The Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal is a voluntary and ambitious program that sets practices and norms for schools around privacy of student data. School systems that earn the TLE Seal will be recognized for successfully implementing the practices to build and foster “trusted learning” at the core of their cultures.
- The goal of this initiative is to reframe the conversation around student data privacy to one of “trust.” Creating this trust requires that school system leaders implement documented compliance policies and practices to protect student data, and that they clearly communicate those policies and practices to parents, communities and policymakers.

- Through participation in the TLE program, school systems can more easily demonstrate their commitment to high compliance standards and continuous examination and evolution of privacy practices.
  - This is the only data privacy seal for school systems. It signals adherence to high standards around protection of student data.
  - The TLE Seal is a comprehensive approach for protection of educational data.
  - School systems will have the opportunity to earn the TLE Seal by demonstrating their commitment to excel in each of the following areas:
    - **Leadership:** manage and collaborate with stakeholders regarding the use and governance of student data to inform instruction
    - **Classroom:** implement educational procedures and processes to ensure transparency while advancing curricular goals
    - **Data Security:** perform regular audits of data privacy and security practices and publicly detail these measures
    - **Business:** establish acquisition vetting processes and contracts that, at minimum, address applicable compliance laws while supporting innovation
    - **Professional Development:** require school staff to conduct privacy and security training, and offer the instruction to all stakeholders