



Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

Important Update to Parents Below Regarding Ohio Senate Bill 29

Dear Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Community,

I hope this email finds you well and ready for the beautiful fall weekend ahead. I am writing to share with you information regarding Ohio Senate Bill 29 – also known as the Education Record and Student Privacy Bill – that became effective yesterday, October 24. According to the bill, the new law establishes guidelines regarding the collection, use, and protection of educational records by school districts and their technology providers, to affirm students' privacy when they are using district-issued devices, like a Chromebook or other hardware/software for dedicated, personal student use. Some key aspects of the law include: **Data Ownership and Security:** Student educational records belong to our school district, not our technology partners. Under the bill, and also per our current District practice, our technology providers are not allowed to sell or share student data for commercial purposes, like marketing. Among other requirements for new technology provider contracts, our technology partners must return or destroy any student records within 90 days after a contract ends, unless it's renewed.

Annual Parental Notification of Technology Contracts: Starting with the 2025-2026 school year, we will notify parents each year about any contracts with technology providers that might affect student data. This notification will include details about the records involved and how parents can review these contracts.

Device Monitoring: Under Senate Bill 29, school districts and technology providers are limited as to when they may electronically access or monitor a school-issued device and/or student interactions with a school-issued device. With proper notice, the District or an affiliated technology provider can access or monitor a student's school-issued device for the following reasons:

1. Instructional purposes – meaning, a non-commercial educational purpose for instruction, technical support, or exam-proctoring by District employees, student teachers, contracted staff, a vendor, or the Department of Education
2. If a device is reported stolen or missing
3. To prevent or respond to a threat to life or safety and access is limited to that purpose
4. When it is necessary to comply with federal or state law
5. To participate in federal and state funding programs
6. If permitted under a judicial warrant

To comply with the law, please know this email is intended to communicate that the BBHCS D does implement general monitoring for the six reasons described above, and we will continue doing that for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Based on the above permissible six reasons, the District or its technology provider may generally monitor a school-issued device through student interaction(s) with the device, including, but not limited to, keystrokes and web-browsing activity; location-tracking features of a school-issued device; and/or audio or visual receiving, transmitting, or recording feature(s). In short, we want to ensure that our District continues to appropriately monitor devices in our students' best interest.

Going forward, an annual notice will be issued to all parents by August 1st for the school year forthcoming if the BBHCS D elects to implement general monitoring. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this general monitoring notification, please feel free to contact my office any time.

72-Hour Notifications: If a student interaction with a school-issued device is accessed for any reason beyond general educational monitoring for the reasons outlined above, parents will be notified within 72 hours, explaining what was accessed and why. Keep in mind that this notice may be temporarily withheld if the notice itself would pose a threat to life or safety.

Ultimately, the BBHCS D aims to comply with Senate Bill 29 and share its nuances with you here, while working to affirm our students' privacy to the greatest extent possible while maintaining a safe, secure, and educationally rich environment. The District will continue to remain in touch about this on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Harrison
Superintendent

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