



October 23, 2024

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The recently enacted Education Record and Student Privacy Bill (Senate Bill 29) establishes additional notice requirements with respect to how districts utilize technology. Accordingly, this letter serves as the District's annual technology privacy notice consistent with Ohio Revised Code 3319.325 - .327.

As was shared with you at the beginning of the school year, the Career Center, either directly or through a technology provider, generally monitors all school-issued devices (as that term is defined by R.C. 3319.325) including hardware, software, devices and accounts that a school district provides to an individual student for that student's dedicated use. The monitoring includes the following features: location-tracking features and student interactions with school-issued devices (e.g. keystrokes and web-browsing activity). This monitoring is generally done to further educational purposes, including for instruction, technical support, or exam-proctoring, and these features are also monitored as a necessary precaution to prevent and respond to threats to life or safety.

For example, teachers often monitor on-task activity when students are working on laptops or school owned devices, and the district's filter generally monitors for internet searches that might indicate at-risk behavior. Additionally, the District participates in E-Rate and other federal funding programs, which require compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Under CIPA, our District must monitor the online activities of minors and have technology protection measures in place to block or filter Internet access to pictures that are obscene, child pornography, or other sites that could be harmful to minors.

While general monitoring typically occurs related to safety and educational purposes, the District may also generally monitor when one or more of the following conditions exist: permitted under a judicial warrant; the school district or technology provider is notified or becomes aware that the school-issued device is missing or stolen; the activity is necessary to comply with federal or state law; and/or to participate in federally-and-funded programs.

If general monitoring leads to, or an individual student's device is accessed, under one of the conditions outlined in this letter, then his or her parent/guardian will be notified via the approved email address or via OneView within 72 hours of the access, unless the notice itself would pose a threat of life or safety (in which case it will be given within 72 hours after the threat has ceased). As the dust settles on this new legislation, parents should not be surprised by occasional notifications.

Our goal is to balance the demands for student privacy with the demands for student safety and instruction. Unfortunately, we live in a time when both technology and threats to safety are constantly evolving, so navigating this inherent tension is no easy task. As such, we will continually evaluate our practices, listening to and considering input from all our stakeholders as we make refinements.

Respectfully,

David Deskins
Superintendent