



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Temporary Flexibilities – Student Data Privacy Act

In accordance with Governor Ned Lamont’s Executive Order 7I, and due to extended physical school closures during the COVID-19 Pandemic, I am providing guidance pertaining to the available flexibilities for local or regional boards of education with regard to contracting with technology vendors.

Protecting the privacy of student data is of paramount importance at all times, especially during times of crisis, so vendors do not profit from or misuse their access to our children’s information. At the same time, districts looking to deploy new educational technologies face pressure to secure written contracts with providers in order to comply with Connecticut’s student data privacy law, [Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-234aa – dd](#).

Therefore, effective immediately and for the duration of the cancellation of in-school classes, districts may bypass the process of crafting individual contracts for new technology solutions that fall under the data privacy statute. Instead, they can use educational technology solutions provided by companies that have provided digital assurances that they comply with Connecticut’s law by signing the [Connecticut Student Data Privacy Pledge](#). Such solutions may include online/mobile applications that support school purposes such as classroom instruction, administrative activities, or collaboration.

Vendors may sign the Pledge by visiting the [Connecticut Educational Software Hub](#) and providing documentation to support their compliance (e.g., data privacy agreements, sample contracts or addenda). The Hub has been established by the [CT Commission for Educational Technology](#), which provides guidance to districts and vendors around data privacy compliance. Districts may reference the list of pledged products at [Connecticut.LearnPlatform.com](#) and use this [sample e-mail](#) to encourage vendors to visit the Hub, learn about Connecticut’s statutory requirements, and pledge their compliance.

In addition, all applicable Federal laws on student information continue to apply to protect our students’ data. Districts are also encouraged to work with vendors to require limited information be required from students, such as just an email address but not any other identifying information.

For any questions about the Hub, please contact [Doug Casey](#) at the Connecticut Commission on Educational Technology at (860) 622-2224.