



Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal Frequently Asked Questions

What is the TLE Seal Program?

The TLE Seal Program is an initiative of CoSN, in association with AASA - the School Superintendents Association; the Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (ASCD); and the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The program provides schools with a set of high standards around 5 core practices focused on protecting the privacy and security of student data. It requires that schools continuously examine and improve their practices to align with those standards.

What is the TLE Seal?

The seal will signify that a school has broadly and deeply implemented aspirational, yet achievable practices to ensure the privacy of student data.

Who will be eligible?

The TLE Seal is open to all K-12 schools. By "school" we are referring to school organizations of all governance structures, including public school districts, private schools, parochial schools, charter schools, etc. Individual schools that are part of a governance structure are not eligible to apply for the Seal.

Will the TLE Seal apply to online education service providers, websites or apps?

No, the TLE Seal only applies to school organizations.

Why is it important?

Data shows that a large majority of parents are concerned about the privacy and security of their students and student data. Data is vital to efforts to provide a more personalized education for all students. Parents need to trust that their schools are taking the necessary measures to protect student data.

Will the TLE Seal assure compliance with federal and/or state privacy laws?

Compliance with applicable privacy laws should be considered a minimum standard and it is the responsibility of schools and service providers. The TLE Seal will consider practices that may not be required by law, but that are important to protect student data.

How is it being developed?

CoSN is working with representatives of 28 schools over a period of several months to define the TLE Seal standards and to develop the process by which schools can earn a seal. These schools represent a wide range of demographics and school types. The complete listing of the participating school districts, can be found in the press release [here](#).

Are other organizations involved?

Yes, CoSN has 3 Lead Partners in this effort. They are AASA - the School Superintendents Association; the Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (ASCD); and the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). In the fall of 2015, CoSN began recruiting additional partners, they will be announced during the official launch.

When will the TLE Seal be ready?

The TLE Seal program will officially launch in April 2016. Applications will be accepted beginning in May.

What happens if a school system application is denied?

School system leaders apply for the TLE program by submitting detailed information about specific practices for review by CoSN. Our goal is to provide school systems with sufficient guidance about TLE requirements in advance, so that they will be positioned for success when they apply. However, in the event

that CoSN determines that a Seal should not be awarded, the school system will be able to appeal the decision to a peer group led by CoSN. There will be one appeal allowed per application. Should an appeal be denied, the school system will be eligible to reapply in the next cohort. We expect there to be two cohorts per year.

How will CoSN handle complaints about a school system that displays the TLE Seal?

CoSN provides school systems with specific information regarding expectations for participation in the TLE program. We review all applications, and to the extent possible, we work with technology leaders and other subject matter experts to validate the information provided. However, school system leaders bear the sole responsibility for submitting complete and accurate information in the application process and for continuing to meet the TLE requirements while they display the Seal, and answering questions that come up from their community.

If you have any other questions, please contact CoSN's Project Lead, Bob Moore, at RobertMoore@DallasISD.org. For more information and latest developments on the TLE Seal, please contact CoSN at michaelkaplun@cosn.org or follow @CoSN.