

# The Role of Leadership in Protecting Student Data Privacy

*The need for school systems to demonstrate their commitment to protecting student data has never been greater. School system leaders know that protecting student data privacy is a top concern of parents, legislators and their peers. They also appreciate that developing a data privacy governance program is not the job of one person or one team. It is a multi-stakeholder endeavor that requires executive leadership engagement, commitment and support.*

## About the TLE seal

CoSN's national Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal Program, launched in 2016, is the only student data privacy seal for school systems and school organizations of all governance structures. Developed through the input of 28 school systems nationwide as well as the School Superintendents Association (AASA), the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) and ASCD, the Program provides school systems with a comprehensive approach to protecting the privacy of student information.

## The TLE seal promise

TLE Seal recipients signal that they have taken measurable steps to help protect the privacy of student data. The Seal reflects strong leadership driving a holistic data privacy program and a commitment to the continuous examination and evolution of their privacy practices and to building a trusted partnership with parents and other community stakeholders.

## The TLE program sets rigorous, publicly available standards and requirements for school systems in the following areas:

**Leadership** Manage and collaborate with stakeholders regarding the use and governance of student data to inform instruction

**Business** Establish acquisition vetting processes and contracts that, at a minimum, address compliance with applicable laws while supporting innovation

**Data security** Perform regular audits of data privacy and security practices and publicly detail these measures

**Professional development** Require school staff to conduct privacy and security training, and offer the instruction to all stakeholders, including parents

**Classroom** Implement educational procedures and processes to ensure transparency while advancing curricular goals

TLE is a CoSN initiative. <https://www.cosn.org/edtech-topics/trusted-learning-environment>.

The TLE Program is supported by lead partners:

