As the leader in providing critical guidance to meet the needs of K12 education technology professionals, CoSN provides two core frameworks—one for individuals and one for education institutions—to demonstrate leadership and student data privacy skills, knowledge, and competencies.

The CoSN Framework of Essential Skills of the K-12 CTO is the backbone of CoSN’s Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL®) Program. CETL® is the only accredited, practice-based certification program for technology leaders that bridges technical knowledge, understanding of the educational environment, leadership and vision, and the management of the technology and support resources needed to integrate technology across the curriculum to advance student outcomes. The CETL® credential is a true measure of today’s education technology leaders, identifying those who have mastered the skills and knowledge needed to bring 21st century skills to school systems.

The Framework of Essential Skills of a K12 CTO is comprised of three primary professional categories in the education technology field. Each of these categories includes 10 essential skill areas, outlining the responsibilities and knowledge needed to be a viable educational technology leader. Each of these skills and the related knowledge needed to demonstrate them are included in CoSN’s Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) certification exam.

The CoSN Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal Program is the only student data privacy framework designed for school systems. Developed by CoSN with the input of 28 education technology leaders, as well as AASA, The School Superintendents Association, The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International, and ASCD, the TLE Seal Program provides school systems with a comprehensive approach to protecting student data privacy.

The TLE Seal Program sets rigorous, publicly available standards for school systems across 5 core student data privacy practice areas: Leadership, Business, Data Security, Professional Development, and Classroom. Earning the TLE Seal signals that the school system has taken measurable steps to help protect the privacy of student data and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the continuous examination and evolution of their privacy practices and to building a trusted partnership with parents and other community stakeholders. School systems that earn the TLE Seal are recognized for successfully implementing the practices to build and foster “trusted learning” at the core of their cultures.
CoSN’s Trusted Learning Environment and the Framework of Essential Skills of the K-12 CTO

While the CoSN Framework of Essential Skills of the K12 CTO focuses on individual leadership skills, and the CoSN Trusted Learning Environment Seal Program focuses on the competencies and capacities of the organization’s student data privacy practices, this crosswalk is designed to identify areas where the work of the individual K12 CTO supports the requirements of the TLE Seal Program.

This crosswalk is not intended to suggest that achieving a level of competence in the noted skills means that a K12 CTO is wholly responsible for a particular TLE Seal Program practice area. The TLE Seal Program requires an organizational commitment to protecting student data privacy. The mandate to do so, and to champion the work belongs to the Superintendent and School Board. However, the K12 CTO leads in directing critical requirements, including as needed, serving as the subject matter expert for the school system.