Discussion Guide: Student Privacy & Education Technology Bill

Congresswoman Trahan has unveiled draft legislation that prioritizes student privacy by placing limits on how data collected through commercial educational software can be used. To ensure that the experiences of students, parents, and educators are reflected in the final version of the bill, she is inviting stakeholders like you to provide confidential input before October 31st.

The bill text can be accessed by clicking here. A section-by-section summary can be accessed by clicking here.

Our office understands that most people do not read legislative text—we still want to hear from you! We have created a discussion guide with high-level questions for parents, students and educators to consider. Your answers to these questions will help us create balanced and thoughtful legislation.

For Parents

1. Throughout the pandemic your children likely started using more and new technology including online education games, remote testing platforms and digital behavior tracking. What types of technology did you find helpful for your child’s learning? What concerns, if any, do you have?
2. What should schools consider as they assess what technology is ok for use in classrooms?
3. National Assessment Providers (companies that administer college entrance exams) often sell student test score data to Universities. Universities in turn use the data to recruit prospective students. Do you consider this an acceptable use of student data?
4. In terms of privacy, what of your kids’ personal data do you care most about protecting?
5. Do you want to be able to request that educational technology companies delete your kids’ personal data? Would you prefer that deletion happens automatically?
**For High School Students**

1. What types of technology improve your educational experience? What concerns, if any, do you have?
2. National Assessment Providers (companies that administer college entrance exams) often sell student test score data to Universities. Universities in turn use the date to recruit prospective students. How do you feel about your data being used for these purposes?
3. In terms of privacy, what of your personal data do you most care about protecting?
4. Do you want to be able to request that educational technology companies delete your personal data? Would you prefer that the deletion happens automatically?

**For Educators**

1. What types of technology have improved your experience as an educator?
2. Have you ever struggled to understand the outcome of a predictive learning software or to understand how a specific education technology works?
3. What metrics do you use to determine what education technology can be used in your classrooms? What types of concerns would cause you to stop using technology?
4. What types of guidance do you currently receive regarding the types of technology that are appropriate for classroom use?