



EASTON, REDDING, AND REGION 9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

654 MOREHOUSE ROAD, P.O. BOX 500 EASTON, CONNECTICUT 06612

OFFICE (203) 261-2513 FAX (203) 261-4549

WEB SITE: WWW.ER9.ORG

THOMAS H. McMORRAN, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 4, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the Community,

The Administration and Faculty of the Easton, Redding and Region 9 School Districts are committed to protecting privacy and developing uses of technology that give students meaningful and safe educational experiences. The Districts comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which has a goal of protecting a student's educational records. Although FERPA regulations apply only to students, Easton, Redding and Region 9 School Districts are equally committed to protecting the privacy of all data.

A student's right to privacy has been governed by FERPA for many years. If you would like more details on FERPA, please visit the U.S. Department of Education's FERPA at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/parents.html>.

Due to legislation passed this summer by the Connecticut General Assembly, which comes into effect in October, for the 2016-2017 school year and going forward, all public school districts in Connecticut are required to comply with Public Act 16-189, "An Act Concerning Student Data Privacy". This law includes specific requirements for school districts with respect to contracts with operators of websites, online services, or mobile applications, or with consultants who provide non-instructional support or services and have access to student data.

Key components of the legislation:

- All student-generated content remains the property of the student or the student's parent or legal guardian.
- Contractors must implement and maintain security procedures and practices designed to protect student information, student records, and student-generated content from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure in a manner consistent with federal law and industry standards.
- Contractors are prohibited from using student data for any purposes other than those the contract authorizes and from using student data for targeted advertising.
- Operators must not sell, rent or trade student data, disclose student data except under limited circumstances, and must delete student data within a reasonable amount of time upon request from a student, parent, or guardian.

All contracts must include specific provisions that protect the privacy of student data. Parents will be notified within five (5) days of all new contracts and their execution date and purpose, the type of student data that may be collected as a result of the contract, and access to each contractor's privacy policy. These notices will also be posted on the Easton, Redding and Region 9 School Districts Central Office website along with copies of the contracts. If a security breach occurs that includes unauthorized disclosure of data, parents will be notified within 48 hours after receiving notification from the contractor. Operators of websites, online services and applications (apps) must notify students or parents/guardians of such breaches within a similar time frame.

We take our responsibility to protect and maintain students' privacy seriously. The districts will continue to work with contractors to review and revise existing contracts to confirm compliance with the new data privacy legislation. Teachers will follow new procedures for using websites, products and applications when there is a need to include student information.

We have members of the staff collating a list of all relevant websites, applications, vendors, and programs that are affected by this new law, and we will notify you via email once that list is available on our E/R/9 website. As we implement this new legislation, we will balance the expectation of student privacy with the goals of purposeful and innovative technology use. We appreciate your patience as the districts adjust to changes in the instructional uses of technology that will occur in classrooms to safeguard student data.

I believe this new legislation is a good step toward securing the privacy of our students. It is, as I hope you can see, far-reaching in its scope, and it will take time for us to be fully in compliance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom McMorran".

Thomas McMorran, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TM/sl