



Support HB3606/SB2089 Protect students' data privacy

Digital technology has become ubiquitous in public schools. Detailed personal data about students is collected on a daily or even second-by-second basis. Student information now goes far beyond grades and test scores and may include everything from students' physical locations with time stamps, online usage history, IP address, keystrokes, food purchases, in-school behavior (e.g. bathroom usage), fingerprints, and library books.

Parents are rarely asked for consent to have their child's data collected and stored by third-party organizations. Furthermore, families may not even be notified that such data is being collected, who it's being shared with, how it's secured, and how it could be destroyed if they don't want it to be collected.

A K-12 data breach happens on average [every three days](#) in the US at a cost of [\\$245 per exposed record](#). Public schools around the state have been subjected to numerous costly breaches and ransomware incidents in just the last two years (e.g. Chicago, Crab Orchard, Pekin, Urbana, Morton, Abingdon, Mt. Zion and Gardner).

Why do we need this bill?

- **Existing student data privacy law was written by and for the tech industry. Families and parents had no role in the negotiations.** As it exists today, the law has inadequate protections of student data, loopholes for commercial use of student data, and minimal transparency measures.
- **Misuse of student data can compromise student safety and career opportunities.** HB 3606/SB2089 creates additional protections for student data, closes commercial use loopholes, and provides families with a significant level of transparency and control over children's data.
- **The opportunity to make Illinois a leader in student data privacy.** Other states have begun to address the issue; this bill's provisions are based on laws from [Connecticut](#) and [Colorado](#).

What will this bill do?

- **Gives control of student data back to parents.** This bill allows parents to review and request deletion of the personal information companies and schools have collected on their child. Currently, only schools can request deletion of such information. Additionally, it requires parental consent before a school could share highly sensitive student information and prohibits withholding educational opportunities for parental refusal to share their child's data.
- **Increases transparency.** The legislation requires schools to list the types of data they collect and any data sensitive contracts the school has with outside companies. It also creates notification procedures for parents and schools if their children's data is breached.
- **Safeguards student data.** It requires companies to delete student data after it is no longer being used for educational purposes, allow schools to inspect student data in a company's possession, and ensures schools have a policy for protecting student information.
- **Creates the Student Data Protection Oversight Committee.** The committee, comprised of education, technology, and civil rights stakeholders, will review and give recommendations for best practices regarding student data privacy to ensure legislators are prepared to address an ever evolving topic.