ASk questions about devices, apps and data

Find out what devices and apps your child is using in school and out. Have they been vetted for data privacy, security, and compliance with state and federal privacy laws? For any particular app/program, who chose to include it in the curriculum? What evidence is there of its effectiveness? What data is being collected about your child by the school, by contractors, or by operators of online programs and apps used in classrooms? When and where is that data being collected (e.g. outside of school? only on school devices during the school day?)

Opt out of directory info sharing

Schools and districts can share some personal student info with third-parties without parental consent. This is called “directory information” and includes: name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and academic awards, dates of attendance and participation in school-sponsored activities like athletics. If you do not wish for all or some of this info to be shared, notify your child’s school in writing. Your school may have provided a form at the beginning of the year, or you can use a sample form from the Parent Coalition for Student Privacy.

ED TECH TIPS FOR PARENTS

Review your child’s ed data

Under federal and state law, you have the right to inspect your child’s education records and personally-identifiable information held by the school, district or state. Records must include unauthorized disclosures from hacks or breaches. The Parent Coalition for Student Privacy has a sample letter you can use to make a request. Ask to correct any mistakes you see in these records.

Research and inform others

Several national organizations have excellent, accessible info on student privacy and ed tech: Parent Coalition for Student Privacy, Parents Across America, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the Electronic Privacy Information Center. Share their webinars and fact sheets with other parents, your local school council and elected officials. Many people do not realize the amount and implications of the personal data being collected and shared via public schools.

www.ilraiseyourhand.org