



## Support HB1295: Student Information Transparency Families need to know who is collecting what data about their children

Computer and device usage has become ubiquitous in public schools. Detailed data about students is collected and stored electronically on a daily or even second-by-second basis, going far beyond traditional highly-sensitive student record data like grades, test scores, attendance, disciplinary actions and Individualized Education Program documents. Student data records may now include everything from a student's online usage history, IP address, physical location (e.g. via RFID tags) with time stamps, keystrokes, food purchases, in-school behavior (e.g. bathroom usage), fingerprints, 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 is being collected by, how it is being secured and how it could be corrected or destroyed if they do not wish for it to be collected.

The provisions of this bill were passed in similar form in [Connecticut](#) and Colorado ([the Student Data Transparency And Security Act](#)).

Like schools around the country, public schools around the state have been subjected to numerous data breaches and ransomware incidents in just the last two years (including Chicago, Crab Orchard, Pekin, Urbana, Morton and Abingdon).

### What does the bill do?

This bill would require school districts to disclose annually to families:

- Detailed description of what student data is collected or stored by the school district itself or by contract providers who have a contract with a school district;
- Complete inventory of online providers in use in a school district.
- Procedures for how parents can examine, correct and delete their child's data.

### Didn't the General Assembly just pass a Student Online Privacy Protection Act (PA 100-0315) last summer? Why is this needed now?

SOPPA was written by and for the tech industry. **Families and parents had no role in the negotiations of the content of that bill.** Numerous aspects of that bill weaken the IL Student Records Act; other provisions in SOPPA codified inadequate protections of student data. It included loopholes for inappropriate commercial use of student data, e.g. product development, transfers in asset sales, and use of so-called 'de-identified' data—something that research has shown is not sufficient to anonymize sensitive personally-identifiable information.

**The primary goal of HB1295 is transparency.** SOPPA did not include transparency provisions. If this data is important enough to collect, then parents deserve at the very least to know what is being collected by whom; this is information that is currently nearly impossible for a parent to access. It is also critical that policymakers have a clear picture of the scope of the personally-identifiable digital data that public schools are responsible for generating and securing.