



OREGON ADVOCACY COMMISSIONS

Commissions on Asian/Pacific Islanders; on Black Affairs; on Hispanic Affairs; and Commission for Women



Oregon Student Information Privacy Coalition Asks you to support SB 187A As sent from the House Education Committee

SB 187A is a common-sense bill designed to ensure that students do not become victims of unwitting disclosure of sensitive personal information when using educational technology in our schools. Developed by Oregon’s Attorney General and modeled from a groundbreaking bill in California, this legislation establishes the Oregon Student Information Protection Act to clarify which activities would be prohibited when students access online educational content. Students of all ages, from kindergarten through high school, are protected by this act, beginning on July 1, 2016.

Some have asked why this bill is needed. Shouldn’t parents and teachers monitor children’s Internet usage? Shouldn’t companies be able to offer useful products, services, and opportunities to our children? If the questions were that simple, there would be no need for this legislation.

Pop up ads are only the beginning of the story, however. Student data that will remain unprotected without this bill include:

“The student’s first and last name, home address, telephone number, electronic mail address or other information that allows physical or online contact; the student’s discipline records, test results, special education data, juvenile dependency records, grades, evaluations, criminal records, medical records, health records, Social Security number, biometric information, disabilities, socioeconomic information, food purchases, political affiliations, religious information, text messages, documents, student identifiers, search activity, photographs, voice recordings or geolocation information.”
[From the bill]

FERPA and HIPAA, the federal student records and health information protections in law, do not protect our students from release, transfer, and use of much of this information in the hands of third parties. Allowing corporations to access our children’s protected personal information is not only inappropriate, it may be unsafe. That’s why a coalition of advocates has formed to support passage of this bill as it was reported out of the House Education Committee. Please support SB 187A and help parents, teachers, school districts, and children’s advocates keep our students safe from release of sensitive personal information when they surf the ‘Net.

Thank you for your “yes” vote on SB 187A!