

Learning Innovation and Family Empowerment (LIFE) with AI Act

Establishes a parent-centered framework to safeguard student data privacy, enhance transparency, and encourage the responsible and optional use of AI in K-12 personalized learning.

WHY THE BILL IS NEEDED:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects student education records and parental rights, but in its 51-year existence, student data uses and education technology have transformed. As schools adopt new, artificial-intelligence-enabled educational technology, parents deserve transparent notice, consent methods, and assurance that student data is safeguarded.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

HELPS PARENTS NAVIGATE THE AI ERA

- Creates the federal “Golden Seal of Excellence in Student Data Privacy,” awarded to schools and districts that implement better parental consent systems and year-round opt-out tools.
- Simplifies FERPA directory-information opt-outs by requiring clear online notices and forms accessible year-round and usable in minutes.
- Allows parents the opportunity to view elements of third-party ed-tech contracts before they are executed.

PROTECTS STUDENTS IN A DATA HUNGRY WORLD

- Protects students from facial recognition risks by prohibiting the use of student photos to train facial recognition AI without prior parental consent and restricting contracts with yearbook vendors that use facial recognition without disclosure and opt-in.
- Modernizes FERPA’s definition of “education records” to expand coverage of what parents and students can inspect and release.

BOLSTERS SCHOOLS IN ED-TECH PROCUREMENT

- Establishes a process for crafting model privacy language for ed-tech contract consistency.
- Establishes a federal list of noncompliant third-party vendors following investigation and appeal, with a five-year listing period for violations tied to student data privacy requirements.
- Codifies the Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) as an entity that assesses education technology’s privacy protectiveness upon request.

PRIORITIZES SMART AI USE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Directs the creation of evidence-based training resources and materials to aid teachers in using AI well in their classrooms.
- Updates Title II-A professional development funds’ allowable uses to apply to AI and emerging technologies explicitly.
- Directs the Institute of Education Sciences to prioritize AI tutoring R&D that improves learning while preserving students’ critical-thinking skills, with criteria for equity, innovation, and classroom integration.



Senate Committee on

Health Education Labor & Pensions

Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chair