

FTC to Prioritize Cybersecurity and Data Minimization Enforcement Under COPPA to Bolster Student Privacy | Center for Democracy and Technology

By Cody Venzke

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The Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) welcomes the unanimous approval by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of a policy statement that underscores education technology vendors' responsibilities under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). The statement acknowledges the importance of technology in students' lives, and makes known that the FTC intends to increase its enforcement of COPPA's existing requirements related to data security and data minimization. This development is an important step toward improving privacy for students and children and securing their data, as student and children's privacy laws have long been criticized for their lack of enforcement.

"The FTC's policy statement underscores the importance of thoughtful data practices in protecting students' privacy," said CDT President & CEO Alexandra Givens. "Limitations on data collection, use, and retention are essential to protect individuals from privacy harms and cybersecurity risks. We applaud the FTC for its work to strengthen enforcement of children's privacy requirements in the context of education technology, and particularly thank the Commissioners who championed data minimization as a vital component of this work. While this policy statement represents an important step forward, we also join the call for the FTC to complete its long-awaited review of the regulations that govern children's privacy, and to align those reforms with the wider movement to protect *everyone's* privacy at the federal level."

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