



Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Overview

About the TLE Seal Program

Developed through the collaborative insight and work of national educational leadership organizations and school systems nationwide, the **Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal Program** embodies the commitment of school leadership to safeguard the digital privacy of student data.

The TLE Seal Program is the only all-encompassing program addressing school system student data privacy and security. It provides school system leaders with the guidance they need to put effective privacy practices in place, and signal to parents and communities that they are taking measurable steps to assure the protection of student information.

TLE Seal Frequently Asked Questions

What is the TLE Seal?

- The TLE Seal is a mark of distinction for school systems, signaling they have taken measurable steps to implement strong practices to ensure privacy of student data.

Who is eligible to earn the Seal?

- The TLE Seal is open to all K-12 schools. By “school” we are referring to school organizations of all governance structures, including public school districts, private schools, parochial schools, charter schools, etc. At this time, education service agencies are not eligible.

Why is the TLE Seal Program important? How does it differ from other voluntary privacy programs?

- The TLE Seal gives school system leaders the guidance they need to manage student data and privacy and more easily communicate to parents and communities the steps they are taking to help assure the privacy and security of student data.
- While there are several pledges and certifications that address components of student privacy, the TLE Seal is the only program focused on the school system, not the vendors. It provides school system leaders with the practices needed to create trusted and secure learning environments, and indicates adherence to a set of publicly available standards focused on the protection of student data privacy.

Does earning the TLE Seal ensure a school system has complied with federal and/or state privacy laws?

- School system and service provider compliance with applicable privacy laws should be considered a minimum standards, and compliance is the responsibility of schools and service providers. School systems applying for the TLE Seal are expected to be in and maintain compliance with applicable laws. The TLE Seal accounts for school system practices that may not be required by law, but that are important to protect student data.

What does the Seal look like?

- See the image on the right.

How was the TLE Seal Program developed?

- The Seal was developed over the course of several months in partnership with national and district experts.
- In addition to CoSN (the Consortium for School Networking), there are 3 lead partners in this effort: AASA, the School Superintendents Association, the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), and ASCD as well as a diverse representation of 28 school system leaders nationwide. The full list of participants is available [here](#).



Where can school system leaders learn more and apply for the TLE Seal?

- School system leaders can learn more and join the movement at trustedlearning.org.

TLE Seal Talking Points

The Trusted Learning Environment Seal is a mark of distinction for school systems, signaling that they have taken measurable steps to assure the digital privacy of student-related data.

- School system leaders have a lot on their plate to enhance learning and accelerate student achievement. Chief among their challenges today is managing student data and security – and doing so with limited resources while harnessing the benefits of an e-learning culture.
- Formed through the collective efforts of national and local school leaders, the TLE Seal gives school system leaders the needed guidance to put effective student data privacy policies and practices into place, and embodies their commitment to continuously examine and improve that work.
- The TLE Seal is the only program that takes a comprehensive approach to school management of student data privacy. It enables school systems to show they are taking meaningful and measurable steps to foster trusted learning environments.

Additional Resources

TLE Seal website:

trustedlearning.org

Introductory announcement:

[National Education Organizations Launch Effort to Build a ‘Trusted Learning Environment’ in U.S. School Systems](#)

Relevant media coverage:

Education Dive - [School districts, ed organizations launch student privacy initiative](#)

Education Week - [Why K-12 Data-Privacy Training Needs to Improve](#)

eSchool News - [Ed groups launch efforts to build ‘trusted learning environment’](#)