



Mapping Out Texas's K-12 Compliance Landscape

Your guide to cybersecurity, safety, and data privacy compliance

It's no secret that school technology teams are overworked and underfunded. At the same time, schools rely on technology data systems for everything from teaching and learning to payroll and accounting. These realities are causing serious problems for cybersecurity, student safety, and data privacy compliance in Texas schools.

If your district is using cloud applications — like Google Workspace, Microsoft 365, and the many, many more tools available today — your noncompliance exposure is likely much riskier than you realize. You need to stay ahead of the multiple federal and state laws that impact your district, not only to maintain compliance, but also to protect the safety and privacy of your students.

Federal Legislation

- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** FERPA restricts the disclosure of a student's personally identifiable information without a parent's or guardian's written consent.
- **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA):** CIPA requires schools to implement internet safety policies and monitoring procedures that block access to content deemed obscene, inappropriate, illegal, or harmful to minors.
- **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):** COPPA requires online operators and websites to obtain parental consent before collecting personal data from children under 13.
- **Federal civil rights legislation:** Several federal laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, require schools to address bullying/cyberbullying on the basis of a student's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, disability, sexuality, or religion.

Texas Schools Trust ManagedMethods

Texas State Legislation

The Lone Star state doesn't take any shortcuts when it comes to student data privacy and cybersecurity. Why should you?

Let's map out the three most important Texas state regulations:

Senate Bill 820 (SB-820):

Governor Greg Abbott signed SB-820 into law in June 2019. This law requires Texas districts to:

- Adopt an effective cybersecurity policy
- Create a risk identification program
- Plan to mitigate critical vulnerabilities
- Designate a Cybersecurity Coordinator to report information security breaches

The Texas Student Privacy Act (HB-2087):

Since 2017, HB-2087 has restricted how student data may or may not be used by online operators whose services are used and marketed primarily to K-12 school districts (e.g., third-party edtech vendors).

HB-2087 prohibits selling student information. It also bans educational institutions and their vendors from advertising to students based on the data they've shared. Although this law applies specifically to vendors, Texas districts need to carefully consider their edtech providers to ensure their solutions are compliant.

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Anti-Bullying Legislation:

Texas has numerous regulations pertaining to bullying and cyberbullying. Generally, these laws define cyberbullying as any bullying behavior that's done through any electronic communication device, including school-provided cloud services like Google Chat or Microsoft OneDrive.

David's Law, for instance, requires districts to adopt policies and procedures for preventing, investigating, and mitigating bullying of any kind. This includes teaching students about digital citizenship, the consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report incidents anonymously.

Automate Your Cloud Compliance Journey

ManagedMethods makes Google Workspace and Microsoft 365 cybersecurity, student safety, and compliance easy for K-12 school districts — no proxy, no agent, no extension, and no special training needed.

But don't take our word for it. Our platform has helped dozens of Texas school districts take the pain out of cloud compliance.

“Hands down, ManagedMethods is the security platform I use every day. Our insurance policy is requiring districts that have cloud storage and email to have cloud security for their environment. If they don't have it, their premiums would go up. That cost difference alone pays for ManagedMethods.”

Cody Walker, Director of Technology at West Rusk County Consolidated Independent School District



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