



Mahomet-Seymour Schools

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Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) Parental Rights

Protecting Your Child's Online Privacy: A Guide to the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA)

The Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) is an Illinois law designed to safeguard your child's data privacy in school settings. It ensures educational technology companies handle student information responsibly. This guide empowers you, as a parent, to understand your rights under SOPPA and navigate the process of protecting your child's online privacy.

What Information Does SOPPA Protect?

SOPPA covers any personal information collected by educational technology companies used by your child's school. This includes details like:

- Names
- Grades
- Test Scores
- Online Activity (within educational platforms)

What Are Your Rights Under SOPPA?

SOPPA grants you several key rights regarding your child's data:

- **Access:** You have the right to review the data collected about your child by the school and educational technology companies.
- **Correction:** If you find any inaccuracies in your child's data, you can request corrections.
- **Deletion:** In some cases, you may request the deletion of your child's data.

Exercising Your Rights Under SOPPA

Here's a step-by-step approach to exercising your rights under SOPPA:

1. **Contact Your Child's School:** Your school is the first point of contact. Inquire about their SOPPA compliance procedures. They should have a designated SOPPA point person or a clear process for submitting data access/correction requests.
2. **Review School Policies:** Schools are required to have a SOPPA policy outlining parental rights. Carefully review this document to understand the specific procedures for requesting information or making changes to your child's data.
3. **Submit a Request:** Schools typically have forms or online portals for submitting SOPPA requests. Follow the designated process to request access to your child's data or request corrections.

Additional Tips:

- **Maintain Copies:** Keep copies of any requests you submit to the school and their responses for future reference.
- **Timelines:** SOPPA mandates schools to respond to your requests within a reasonable timeframe, typically within 90 days.
- **Further Assistance:** If you encounter difficulties with the school's SOPPA procedures, you can contact the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for guidance.

By understanding your rights under SOPPA, you can take an active role in protecting your child's online privacy and ensure their data is handled responsibly within educational technology platforms.