

February Technology Board Report

Data Privacy and Security - There are three data privacy acts we are reviewing for compliance: the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).

FERPA compliance is mandatory for school districts. COPPA compliance applies in certain situations. A K-12 student's health records (including immunizations and records on services provided to special education students) are defined as education records, and are not subject HIPPA regulations.

Our current district authorized data storage systems are FERPA compliant. We will be developing a district privacy policy to define data storage and privacy policies, procedures, roles, and responsibilities.

CCTV Cameras - In 2017 cameras were installed in Meshik with the support of SESA (Special Education Service Agency). These cameras were installed to aid in the delivery of SPED services. In 2018, a camera was installed in the Nondalton lobby after a student store theft to aid in further theft/vandalism prevention. In 2019, cameras were requested and installed in Pilot Point after a theft in the kitchen, also to aid in additional theft/vandalism.

Prior to any additional camera installations or use, we will be developing a board policy governing the use of CCTV systems in the schools. We will be reviewing locations cameras are permitted (classrooms, common areas, school exterior, etc.), footage retention, authorized access, and how the use of cameras interact with other board policies (student records, discipline, etc.). The CCTV policy will be submitted to the board for review and approval.

ERATE - In addition to our broadband, ERATE also awards an annual subsidy for the purchase of "internal connection" equipment. This includes items like network switches, cabling, and wireless access points. We have submitted an application this year to purchase new battery backup equipment and upgrade our wireless access points. The new access points will aid in Wifi stability under heavy load.

Cachebox - At ASTE in 2019, Jon Ludwig learned of a network appliance called the Cachebox that had the potential to increase the efficiency of our bandwidth. We also learned that these appliances were eligible for ERATE internal connections funds. Prior to a purchase request through ERATE, we talked to DRS who we found out had already been testing them in their other districts with great success. DRS is currently purchasing three Cacheboxes for us to deploy at our three schools with the heaviest network load. Pending positive results, DRS will purchase Cacheboxes for the remainder of our schools over the summer. Acquiring the Cacheboxes through DRS will come at no additional cost to us.