

Digital Privacy Charter for Ontario Schools

We, _____, acknowledge that:

1. All children and youth have fundamental privacy rights
2. The personal information of children and youth is particularly sensitive and must be protected accordingly
3. The online environment presents tremendous opportunity for student learning and growth, but also poses significant risks to their privacy
4. As educators and public institutions, we play a key role in preparing students to manage online privacy risks and become responsible digital citizens

We pledge to support students through:

Protection

1. Acting in students' best privacy interests
2. Limiting collection, use, and disclosure of students' personal information to only what's necessary for discharging our responsibilities as educators
3. Requiring strong privacy protections when engaging third-party providers of digital education tools and services
4. Assessing privacy risks before adopting digital education tools and services
5. Strengthening privacy protections in digital education tools and services, including by making privacy-protective settings the default when using them
6. Informing students, parents, and guardians of significant privacy breaches in a timely way and responding promptly to help mitigate any negative impacts

Empowerment

1. Providing plain language notices to students, parents, and guardians that comply with Ontario's privacy laws and best practices
2. Explaining what types of personal information we collect and the purposes for which it is used or shared with others in a way that is easy for students, parents, and guardians to understand
3. Providing guidance to students on how to protect their personal information, including any personal information collected by digital education tools and services
4. Seeking feedback from students, parents, and guardians on the use of digital education tools and services
5. Informing students of their right to privacy, including their right to access and correct education records containing their personal information, and empowering them to exercise these rights
6. Supporting continual awareness of evolving risks and ongoing learning about privacy in the digital environment

For more information: