

New state law will protect students' school information

by SARA PLATNICK

California is poised to become the first state to enact a law thoroughly limiting the amount of student information that could be collected by schools through technology.

While other states, including Louisiana, Virginia and New Hampshire, have laws in place to limit the amount of information that schools can collect and share about students, California is set to pass the most comprehensive law limiting data collection and sharing from schools.

As more and more school districts use different technological devices for educational purposes, schools are able to collect more and more information about students, including behavioral patterns in the classroom or purchasing patterns in the cafeteria.

Chadwick has recently expanded its own 1:1 program, using iPads in the classroom to further the academic progress of the Village School [*Editor's note: For more about the developing 1:1 program, see the article below*].

At the moment, no federal law exists to limit how schools use information collected through technology.

Because the development of technology in schools is so recent, state legislatures have not been able to enact laws to keep up.

In California, a law has been passed by the legislature that creates a widespread limit to what schools can do with the information they collect.

The bill has yet to be signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, which would turn the proposal into law. Brown has yet to take a position on the issue, and if he doesn't take a side soon, the law will be enacted in the coming weeks.

The law was passed because of growing concern from parents about the possibility of confidential information being shared



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With use of technology growing in classrooms, California hopes to enact a law limiting how schools can use and distribute sensitive student information.

about students, such as a learning disability, disciplinary problems or family trauma.

At Chadwick, however, the law is not expected to represent any significant change for the administration. "[Sharing student files] is out of the question," said Upper School Director Mark Wiedenmann.

"Why would a school do that?"

Legislators hope the law becomes a preventative measure that would keep schools from misusing information that they collect, such as selling information about students to potential colleges.

According to a recent story in the New York Times: "The California bill prohibits companies from selling, disclosing or using for

marketing purposes students' online searches, text messages, photos, voice recordings, biometric data, location information, food purchases, political or religious information, digital documents or any kind of student identification

The law, however, does have an exception for selling information for research purposes.

Chadwick, however does not plan to sell or disclose student records for any purpose, as they already have their own policy on student confidentiality.

Chadwick's policy states: "Once a student has received a diploma from Chadwick School...a student's disciplinary history at the school will be expunged.

"As a result, once a student has graduated, neither the graduate nor the school will be obligated to report

code.

The idea is to prevent companies from using information about students for any activity not intended by schools."

any disciplinary actions to other institutions or agencies."

The law would also be an update to current confidentiality law, since no law exists related to

sharing confidential information about students that was collected through technology.

The only federal law about the confidentiality of student files is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

That law, however, has not been updated for almost 40 years, and many lawmakers believe that the act has not kept pace with the use of digital file sharing.

Confidentiality laws are currently centered around information kept in physical file cabinets, even though many schools are converting information about students from physical to digital files.

Additionally, Chadwick requires that all seniors waive their FERPA right to see recommendations submitted by teachers and faculty to colleges, in order to maintain strict confidentiality during the college admissions process.

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Chadwick School Confidentiality Policy

Chadwick expanding successful 1:1 iPad Village program

by OLIVIA POWELL

Chadwick's Village School has extended its iPad program that will be continuing this year. Both the fifth and sixth grades have been provided with iPads, which is expected to create a more interactive curriculum.

The one-to-one program was started four years ago. Due to its success, the program has been extended. The Village School has been slowly implementing the program to help ensure success.

The program uses iPads to replace typical textbooks and lesson plans. Teachers are specially trained to learn how to give lessons using the tablets, and much of the student work is now contained on the devices.

Students and parents are also given instruction on how to use the devices wisely and effectively. Goals include a plan that all grades 3 through 12 will receive and use iPads by next year.

Deborah Levy, Chadwick's Technology Integration Specialist, is heading up the project. "Our program has proven extremely successful within the entire

Chadwick community of students, parents and teachers," she said.

Chadwick is not the first school to try the iPad program. Some schools, such as private school Rolling Hills Country Day, have had successful one-to-one iPad programs. Other nearby school districts have tried the program to no avail.

Last year, the Los Angeles Unified School District declared their iPad program a "waste of money."

According to the Los Angeles Times, only one out of 245 classrooms surveyed was actually using the iPad program, rendering the program too expensive for its use.

The distribution became too complex, and little attention was given to the actual programs that teachers were using.

The difficulties came with the lack of training for both teachers and students in using the iPads, resulting in a \$61-million failed effort.

Chadwick is working to make its iPads as productive as possible, while insisting that every student has the software to be successful.



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Chadwick stocks up on iPads in order to provide one to every student in the fifth and sixth grades.

According to one of the coordinators of the LAUSD program, the program "requires more than a commitment to purchase and disseminate the equipment. Rather, it is a process that unfolds over time through the sustained efforts of district and school leaders and teachers."

Chadwick has hopes that its program will be different, and fac-

ulty is working hard to ensure success, in hopes that it will expand in the near future.

"We are learning from other schools' programs--both for what to do and what *not* to do, to help ensure that we are as successful as can be.

"Planning, training and research are key elements to being successful," Levy said.

As a whole, Levy believes that Chadwick's future as a school with a one-to-one iPad program will be very successful.

"We have put a lot of effort into this, and I think that it will pay off," Levy said.

"There will always be bumps along the way, but we are working through them as a community as we go."