

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

December 12, 2024

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned education and parent associations write today to support the swift passage of the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA 2.0). This bill represents a critical opportunity to strengthen online privacy protections for children and teens while ensuring that schools can continue to effectively utilize technology in the classroom. With bipartisan support and growing momentum, delaying action risks losing this crucial window for enacting meaningful change that benefits both students and educators. Congress must seize this momentum and pass COPPA 2.0 without delay.

COPPA 2.0 should be passed to ensure that schools retain the authority to consent to data collection and use on behalf of parents in educational contexts. School districts rely on the [FTC's COPPA FAQs](#) and the [FTC's Statement of Basis and Purpose to the 1999 COPPA Rule](#) to consent to such technology uses for teaching, learning, and administration. This longstanding and appropriate authority has not yet been codified into federal statute. COPPA 2.0 would solidify this fundamental administrative and educational function for school districts and safeguard their ability to use effective technologies. COPPA 2.0 is crucial to preserve the ability of schools to provide their students with access to technology when the school has a contract with the edtech vendor and has thoroughly vetted the platform for privacy and security safeguards.

Additionally, COPPA 2.0 would better align protections in the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) with those in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). While COPPA currently only protects children under the age of 13, FERPA provides privacy protections for students of all ages. As a result, most elementary and middle school students are protected by both COPPA and FERPA, yet students over 13 are only protected under FERPA and thus not entitled to COPPA's heightened legal protections when using edtech at school. We wholeheartedly believe that all students deserve heightened privacy protections

when using edtech at school, regardless of their age. By increasing the age of individuals entitled to foundational privacy protections under COPPA from under 13 to under 17, COPPA 2.0 not only extends protections to older students but also empowers schools to demand stricter privacy measures for all students when negotiating agreements with edtech providers.

We appreciate the opportunities that you have provided us for input on this legislation and firmly believe that COPPA 2.0 serves the best interests of students, families, and the school communities our organizations represent. We urge you to pass this bill without delay, as it will enhance privacy protections for children and teens, fostering a safer and more responsible online environment that benefits all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
AFT
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Consortium for School Networking
Council of the Great City Schools
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Education Association
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
Public Interest Privacy Center