

Nevada Interim Legislative Committee on Education 2-20-2020

Introduction – Former K-12 teacher, two kids left in Washoe County public schools, Protect Nevada Children

Regarding the hundreds of free Quote-Unquote “EDUCATION” vendors used in NV schools.

In May 2019 - an internal Washoe County School District memo was sent to teachers stating that

QUOTE “Kahoot - may share or sell our children's Personally Identifiable Information” END QUOTE (hold up).

We parents will never know who Kahoot, an overseas company, will sell our children’s data to.

Eight months later – In January 2020 NBC in Reno covered the story titled: QUOTE Reno mom says app used in school contributed to her son’s suicide END QUOTE

The news story said a Bishop Manogue student took the three question test, while at school, on Kahoot titled: "Should I kill myself?" The next day Caleb Stenvold committed suicide.

In February 2020 WCSD stated publicly that starting in July 2020 teachers will no longer be allowed to use Kahoot. That’s 14 months after the District first stated Kahoot sell’s student PII.

<https://youtu.be/zPpfOe5cJqo?t=731>

So there’s at least two issues:

- 1) The content of Kahoot and the hundreds of other free apps our kids are using, and
- 2) How will all the student PII, data, and schoolwork, these vendors collect affect the future of our children?

Some schools force kids starting in kindergarten to use “free education” apps. Also remember these “free” apps are paid with student data.

No one knows for sure but here’s what some experts on the right and left have to say, hold up.

Districts are not protecting the digital footprint and future students, and frequently parents are not allow to protect their own children, by opting out.

Senator Denis thank you for SB403 last session, but we need to do more to protect the digital footprint and how it will affect the future of the K-12 students in Nevada.

PNC begs you legislators to step in and protect our students.



You can find us on Facebook at Protect Nevada Children.

Click here to go directly to my comments at the end of the last WCSD school board meeting.

<https://youtu.be/zPpfOe5cJqo?t=18488>

4:14

LTE

AA  contractreview.washoesc 

WCSD Contract Review

Categories:

 Junior Scholastic

Currently on Step 9 of 14 awaiting approval from Purchasing Director

Categories:

 Kahoot!

This tool is not approved for use in WCSD. This product may collect student PII to market the product. This product may collect student PII and send and/or sell to third party.

Categories: Formative
Assessment Tools

On Your Side: Reno mom says app used in school contributed to her son's suicide

by Kim Burrows

Wednesday, January 29th 2020

Kahoot app (Photo: KRNV)



A Reno mother said "a perfect" storm caused her 14-year-son to take his own life. She also believed Kahoot, a tool that teachers use in the classroom, is partially to blame.

Caleb Stenvold was a straight "A" student, was on the Manogue football team and was very social. But his mother, Kerri Countess, said -- the day before his death on October 22, 2019 -- everything changed.

ADVERTISING

On that day, Countess said Caleb was in school and searching the internet on his phone.

"He typed into his search bar 'Kahoot makes me suicidal.' And then that ad popped up for all the tests: 'should I kill myself?'" she said.

Caleb answered three questions.

The next day, when his mom went to run errands, Caleb hung himself. Caleb's father found him in the house.

"He just fell into my arms and he said 'Kerri, he's dead' and I said 'no, he's not, he's not, he was OK, I just left him, we were going to watch a movie, we were going to the gym.'"

Caleb's parents believe the pressure to be the best was too much for him, also that Caleb was in honors classes with older students, which his parents say isolated him from his friends. They also say the suicide information and quizzes he read on the internet are also to blame. Countess believes that suggestive information influenced his son's fatal, impulsive decision.

Plenty of kids know about Kahoot and the suicide quizzes. In fact, there's a meme online that says, "I wanna Ka-shoot myself."

"Often, after the death of a child, all of us are looking for answers or causes, and so what happens is something that doesn't make sense, we're trying to figure out what happened where," said Katherine Loudon, the WCSD Counseling Coordinator.

Manogue and the WCSD offers students the Signs of Suicide program in conjunction with the Children's Cabinet. It provides information to help kids identify the signs and symptoms of depression, suicide and self-injury in themselves and their peers. Suicide is the second leading cause of death of kids ages 15-24.

In the WCSD, kids soon won't be using Kahoot in the classroom. Officials just decided it will be eliminating the use of Kahoot in schools, but not necessarily because of the suggestive material.

"We weren't comfortable with all of their data security and data privacy terms," said Robert Sidford, the Chief Information and Innovation Officer.

Federal and state privacy laws also mandate tight security regulations by July 1, 2020.

In the moments after Caleb's death, his mother started [#forever14](#) to advance the conversation and continue people's connection to each other to help prevent suicide. She also asks people to "Tech out, check in" where people put down their social media and other technology on the 14th of every month and check in with others around you.

Countess said good things will come from Caleb's deadly decision.

"It was impulsive, it was immature and I know he would take it back in a second if he could," she said.

Suicide prevention resources:

www.suicideprevention.nv.gov

www.safevoicenv.org

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Kids can also contact their school counselor for help.

BREAKING NEWS

South Korean thriller "Parasite" wins the Academy Award for best picture. It is the first foreign-language film in Oscars history to claim ti

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<https://www.wsj.com/articles/one-parent-is-on-a-mission-to-protect-children-from-digital-mistakes-11562762000>

TECH

Schools Wrestle With Privacy of Digital Data Collected on Students

The online data collected on students is a complicated new front in the privacy battle



Bradley Shear in Washington. He has worked with state and federal lawmakers across the country on social-media privacy protections, particularly for students.

PHOTO: T.J. KIRKPATRICK FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By *Betsy Morris*

July 10, 2019 8:33 am ET

For Maryland lawyer Bradley Shear, his push to protect the data privacy of children became an obsession three years ago when his son, who was in the second grade, was accused by a teacher of googling a profane song in class.

Mr. Shear was convinced his son landed on the webpage by accident, but it brought to mind a troubling question: How long would this incident stick to his son's digital record?

Starting next month, he won't have to worry about it. Mr. Shear convinced his son's school district to wipe clean most of the digital data that the school and its largest outside vendors keep on more than 162,000 students starting as young as kindergarten. It is among the first school districts in the country to schedule an annual purging of student data.

Mr. Shear, who wants "Data Deletion Week" to go national, says he is worried that information stored on distant servers could come back to harm children who make mistakes on social media or with the apps that have become ubiquitous in classrooms.

"I'm a big believer in having a bad day," he says. But "we're entering a phase where there's no such thing as a second chance" as universities and prospective employers are mining more digital clues when making admissions and hiring decisions.

Data generated in the classroom is becoming a heated front in the battle over digital privacy, but privacy experts say the issue is more complicated than it might seem.

"Nobody wants a mistake to follow a student for life," says Amelia Vance, director of education privacy at the Future of Privacy Forum. Internet histories—what students have searched for that might reflect their innermost thoughts or questions—particularly aren't useful, she says.

Many school districts have hundreds, if not thousands, of vendors that collect data through apps or online curricula and most are just now beginning to catch up to the proliferation of new tech tools, Ms. Vance says.

The digital data kept on students can help learning by improving the effectiveness of the software and helping track the performance of students over time. These benefits are minimized if the data gets deleted every year.

Certain information related to grades and vaccination records is important to keep, as is data that helps to determine whether certain groups—those with disabilities or those who aren't native English speakers—are treated equally, Ms. Vance says. And in an era in which so many projects are stored in the cloud, overly broad efforts risk wiping out a student's prized essay, poem or art project.

"A big red delete button is not the solution," she says.

There have been some high-profile incidents in which digital communications have come back to haunt students. Most recently, Harvard University rescinded the admission of Kyle Kashuv, a survivor of last year's mass school shooting in Parkland, Fla., after past racist texts and comments came to light.

RELATED COVERAGE

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In recent posts on Mr. Kashuv's Twitter account, he argued that by rescinding his admission, Harvard was "suggesting that growth isn't possible and that our past defines our future."

Harvard, which says it doesn't comment on the admission status of

applicants, in 2017 rescinded admission offers for at least 10 incoming freshmen after it discovered the students had posted sexually explicit and otherwise offensive messages in a private Facebook chat. Numerous parents have found their youngsters in a bind because web filters don't work and auto-fill features or other algorithms steer young students to inappropriate content by accident.

There are other risks as well. In 2017, a hacking group that calls itself Dark Overlord obtained student names and parents' phone numbers from an Iowa school's records and texted threats to some children. No attacks materialized.

Though school districts typically own and are responsible for student data, the information often resides on the servers of their vendors. Changes in 2011 to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act mean parental consent is no longer required for school officials to share personal information with third-party vendors.

After years of Mr. Shear's lobbying, Montgomery County Public Schools agreed this spring to his idea of deleting the student internet histories from the servers of three of its biggest vendors: Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Apple Inc. and GoGuardian, which offers services to help teachers manage classrooms and monitor students. Apple doesn't use student information other than for educational purposes and deletes data when it receives a request from a school district, the company says. A Google spokesman said the company doesn't assume ownership of any customer data in its G Suite core services and therefore it is up to administrators to keep or delete student information after graduation.

GoGuardian CEO Advait Shinde said Montgomery County's proposed data purge "is a positive way to create a partnership between parents and schools on the management of data on school accounts that is used to provide a better and safer online learning experience."

The information collected through GoGuardian is owned and managed by the school, Mr. Shinde says. The company de-identifies or deletes the student data as instructed by the school, he says.

School officials acknowledge “Data Deletion Week” won’t plug all the privacy holes, noting that Montgomery County teachers and administrators now use roughly 1,000 apps and websites to help organize classrooms and promote new forms of learning, each of which has its own policy for collecting and storing data. The district plans to evaluate contracts with all of them and add to the deletion requirement list. It said it can’t purge all student data; it is required by law to retain some records. Parents and students have the right to request that some data be retained.

Mr. Shear says he hopes to force some educational tech companies to change business models that are based in part on data collection.

He isn’t new to this topic. His Bethesda-based law practice specializes in protecting executives and athletes from potential damage caused by their social media and online activities.

Mr. Shear worked at the National Football League Players Association after law school and one of his tasks was to tell its director about players’ online activities.

Now he also counsels students, athletes and their parents about how colleges and prospective employers can disqualify them if their digital footprints reveal drinking, drug use, profanity, racist and hateful content—even, he believes, poor grammar.

“I tell them that colleges aren’t looking online to find reasons to accept you but to reject you,” Mr. Shear says.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

How do you think schools should balance student privacy against the benefits of technology in the classroom? Join the conversation below.

Write to Betsy Morris at betsy.morris@wsj.com

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How will the data collected, stored, analyzed, shared, and possibly sold by third party software vendors like Edmodo affect your children and their future?

Politico, 5/15/14 title: [The big biz of spying on little kids](#)

"Students shed streams of data about their academic progress, work habits, learning styles and personal interests as they navigate educational websites. All that data has potential commercial value: It could be used to target ads to the kids and their families, or to build profiles on them that might be of interest to employers, military recruiters, or college admissions officers."

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/data-mining-your-children-106676#ixzz3301A3nOm>

New York Times, 8/31/15 title: [Tools for Tailored Learning May Expose Students Personal Details](#)

"These apps and sites represent a small but growing segment of the overall market for prekindergarten through 12th-grade education software. But already, the data collection has raised concerns among lawmakers and parents about whether school districts are equipped to monitor and manage how schools and online education services safeguard students' personal details."

"As schools themselves increasingly analyze socioeconomic, behavioral and emotional data about students, some parents are more troubled by the possibility that the data could be used in making decisions that are damaging to their children, potentially affecting their college or job prospects."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/31/technology/tools-for-tailored-learning-may-expose-students-personal-details.html>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 8/20/15 title: [Surveillance Society: Students easy targets for data miners](#)

"The growing education technology sector is selling the promise of improved student achievement through websites, apps and tools that analyze each child's strengths and weaknesses. In doing so, though, ed tech companies are lapping up unprecedented amounts of information about students, while laws provide little protection." "Parents are very nervous, and rightfully so, when third parties are empowered to build dossiers on their children"

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/surveillance-society/2015/08/20/Surveillance-Society-Students-easy-targets-for-data-miners/stories/201508230018>

Atlantic Journal-Constitution, 2/26/16 title: [Children's privacy at risk from software used in schools](#)

"These interactive programs, marketed by private vendors, frequently use sophisticated software that collects massive amounts of highly personal information about the student's behaviors, mindsets, and attitudes - the '21st-century' psychological skills that the government thinks he should have."

<http://getschooled.blog.myajc.com/2016/02/27/opinion-digital-learning-in-school-exposes-highly-sensitive-data-on-children/>

American Thinker, 8/22/15 title: [Common Core: Who's Watching the Kids?](#)

"Children may be playing interactive educational games, doing interactive assignments, and writing stories that can be easily shared with the teacher and other students. These seemingly harmless activities are in fact being used to collect personal and private information without the parents' consent or knowledge."

"This data will be stored forever, and parents will have very, very limited access to it, if any at all."

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/08/_common_core_whos_watching_the_kids.html

If your child uses Edmodo the company will likely be, "amassing a profile" on your child;

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2014/09/_landmark_student-data-privacy.html

Edmodo will share your children's personal information with others.

<https://www.edmodo.com/privacy#policy>

The bottom line is: WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT STUDENT DATA MINING COMPANIES LIKE EDMODO WILL COLLECT, STORE, ANALYZE, AND SHARE ABOUT OUR CHILDREN; MORE IMPORTANTLY WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL AFFECT THEIR FUTURE.