

What is SOPPA?

In short, the [Student Online Privacy and Protection Act \(SOPPA\)](#) is a set of legislative requirements instituted by the State of Illinois for the purpose of creating and maintaining statewide standards for the maintenance and collection of student data. To that end, SOPPA requires schools to only collect data for demonstrably educational purposes, and to disclose publicly when data breaches occur.

Recently, new amendments have been made to SOPPA, which go into effect on July 1, 2021. These amendments, among other things, require districts to create records whenever personally identifiable information (PII) is collected by an app or other piece of software – regardless of if that app is free, paid, or even intended for educational use.

Several examples of common PII collected by digital service providers include:

- First and last name
- Email address
- Home Address
- Phone number
- Grades
- Socioeconomic status
- Test results
- Photos
- Medical records