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Conservation + Education Empowered by Real Utility Data

District Technology Approval Packet

This document provides an overview of **STEMhero's instructional purpose, technical requirements, accessibility approach, and student data privacy practices** to assist school districts with technology approval and curriculum review.

Overview of STEMhero, and MeterHero

STEMhero, LLC makes a classroom learning platform, *MeterHero*, that helps students explore **water, electricity, and natural gas usage** through data analysis and scientific investigation.

Students use the platform to:

- Conduct real-world investigations into resource use
- Apply data analysis and scientific reasoning skills
- Develop written reports explaining their findings
- Explore connections between science, infrastructure, and community systems

The platform is typically used in courses such as:

- Environmental Science
- Engineering or STEM electives
- Project-based learning courses

The curriculum emphasizes **data-driven inquiry and scientific reasoning**, allowing students to design experiments, analyze results, and communicate findings based on their own observations.

Student Data Privacy Summary

MeterHero is intentionally designed to **minimize the collection of student personal information**.

The platform:

- Does **not collect student names, addresses, or phone numbers**
- Does **not collect student email addresses**
- Does **not collect utility account numbers or billing information**
- Does **not connect to utility billing systems**
- Does **not collect personal information from students or their families**

Students enter **usage data for educational analysis only** as part of classroom investigations.

The platform allows students to view anonymized class data in order to support comparative analysis and discussion while avoiding competition or personal identification.

Student Login and Authentication

Students access MeterHero using their existing **school-managed Google or Microsoft accounts**.

Authentication occurs through **Single Sign-On (SSO)** using an industry standard protocol known as **OAuth**.

During login:

- Authentication occurs directly with Google or Microsoft
- STEMhero receives a secure token confirming authentication
- STEMhero does **not receive or store Google or Microsoft passwords**
- STEMhero does **not access email, files, or other account information**

This approach allows districts to rely on their **existing identity management systems while minimizing student data stored by the platform.**

Teacher Accounts

Teachers create accounts to manage their classroom participation.

Teacher accounts may include:

- Teacher name
- Educational institution
- School address
- School email address

Teacher information is used solely to support the operation of the teacher's account and is **not sold or shared with outside parties.**

Student Privacy Law Alignment

FERPA

Schools using STEMhero remain responsible for ensuring compliance with the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** when entering student data into the system.

COPPA

STEMhero does not collect personally identifiable information from children such as:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address
- Geolocation data
- Persistent identifiers used to track students across services.

Data Security

STEMhero maintains security measures designed to protect information under its control.

Security practices include:

- Secure server infrastructure
- Organizational security procedures
- Alignment with the **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF 2.0)** principles:
    - Govern
    - Identify
    - Protect
    - Detect
    - Respond
    - Recover

All STEMhero employees receive training on **federal and state data privacy laws** prior to gaining access to system data.

Student Reports and Recognition

As part of the STEMhero curriculum, students create written reports summarizing their analysis and findings. These reports are submitted to the teacher for grading.

Schools or teachers may choose to share selected student reports with participating **utility or community partners** who support the program in order to:

- Evaluate the educational experience
- Highlight student research
- Recognize exceptional student work

Teachers are encouraged to **remove student names before sharing reports externally**.

If a school chooses to include student names for recognition purposes, the decision is made by the **teacher or school in accordance with school policy and applicable student privacy laws.**

Technical Requirements

For classroom access, school networks must allow access to the following domains:

- **meterhero.com**
- **dashboard.meterhero.com**
- **teachers.meterhero.com**

Students log in using their **existing Google or Microsoft school accounts**.

The platform is accessible through modern web browsers and does not require special software installation.

Accessibility

STEMhero is committed to making the platform accessible to all students.

Accessibility efforts include:

- Alignment with accessibility best practices
- Evaluation of the platform using third-party accessibility review services
- Ongoing improvements to ensure compatibility with assistive technologies

Additional accessibility documentation, including a **VPAT® accessibility report**, is available upon request.