

## **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the distribution and access of Chromebooks and laptops comes an exciting world of instructional opportunities and strategies to engage our students in the 21st-century learning skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. The purpose of this letter is to explain the process and to familiarize you with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). COPPA requires that web-based sites and application providers obtain verifiable parental consent for children under the age of 13 to use these web-based tools. The Big Spring School District is committed to the safety of our students, especially when it comes to students using online resources. To this end, we will be teaching students about appropriate online behavior including cyberbullying and the disclosure of personal information.

We also recognize that there are a number of excellent online educational resources that would benefit our students, often by providing unique learning experiences. Notably, interactive online resources provide some of the most compelling new educational tools for students. While allowing access to these interactive online educational resources, we also want to balance the protection of your child's privacy and personal information.

The district has a list of approved apps and online resources that are essential to our educational programs. These services may provide teachers with student data or results for educational purposes and planning. We want to ensure that the sites and applications are going to be used for educational purposes and to enhance the curriculum through student engagement. We encourage you to visit each website and review the privacy policy for how student data is used.

Sincerely,

Robert Krepps

Director of Technology

### **BSSD Applications and Interactive Online Resources**

The following is a list of applications and interactive online resources that have been approved for use by our district for the 2024-2025 school year. This list of approved websites and apps is updated regularly. Parents and guardians should check often to stay up to date on the latest apps and websites approved for use across the District. Although not all of these applications and websites collect student data, we encourage you to visit each website and review the privacy policy for how student data may or may not be used. Another excellent resource for examining the privacy policies of applications is [Common Sense Media](#).