

FROM THE LENS OF A CTO/CIO

What to Look For When Evaluating EdTech Vendors

Keeping student, staff, and school data safe and secure is a critical priority and a shared responsibility between the district, the edtech providers it works with, and their cloud hosting providers. When evaluating vendors, district technology teams should look for partners who value data security and safety and understand it as a deep, serious practice. Here is what you need to look for when evaluating edtech vendors, the cloud providers they partner with, and how TalkingPoints supports these criteria:

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOC 2 Certification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business continuity plan (backup, disaster recovery)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All operations follow applicable FERPA, HIPAA, NIST, SOC 2 compliance, Privacy Pledge, COPPA and state privacy laws, Breach and Data Residency Laws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zero Trust Security Model for Firewall Protection
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SSO/MFA implemented
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System patching and ransomware protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managed Detection and Response cybersecurity protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email security	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Password policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets cybersecurity insurance requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with existing systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Security Awareness Training

SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE OF THE CLOUD (CLOUD PROVIDER)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automated and continual vulnerability management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managed Intelligent Threat Detection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS) protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Center Security
Compliance attestations:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FERPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NIST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ISO 27701	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOC 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIPAA	

SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE IN THE CLOUD (EDTECH VENDOR)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secure testing, development, and deployment processes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change management processes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Web Application Firewall protection and layered security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Configuration management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secure and centralized access auditing and logging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PII monitoring and protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meet requirements for cybersecurity insurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Encryption in transit and at rest
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reliability, redundancy, and disaster recovery enablement for network, compute, storage, and data	

PRIVACY & DATA HANDLING

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Portability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data sharing & controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Deletion and Retention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Server uptime
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breach notification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOC2 Type 2 certified
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audit rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No reselling or commercial use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FERPA compliant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSPC certified via iKeepSafe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data storage	

ACCESSIBILITY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADA-compliant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WCAG 2.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 508	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPAT

Read more about TalkingPoints' [commitment to data privacy and security](#), and [connect with us](#) to learn more.

