



Upper Arlington School District

1619 Zollinger Road • Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221 • 614.487.5000 • 614.487.5012 (fax)

March 25, 2025

Dear Representative Russo and Senator Brenner,

I am writing to you on behalf of Upper Arlington Schools to request your support regarding Ohio Senate Bill 29 and to propose a statewide solution that would alleviate compliance challenges for school districts across Ohio.

As you know, SB 29 mandates that districts maintain a public inventory of technology tools, conduct contract reviews, provide annual parental notifications, and update data-use policies. While these requirements are crucial for ensuring student data privacy and transparency, they impose significant administrative and financial burdens, particularly on districts with limited resources.

To address these challenges, we understand that Ohio is considering a statewide adoption of LearnPlatform, which would assist districts in managing compliance tasks such as streamlining contract reviews and vendor approvals, providing a public-facing inventory of approved educational technology tools, and centralizing data collection and reporting.

While LearnPlatform is a valuable tool, we believe the state could further enhance efficiency by establishing a state-managed clearinghouse for educational tools, products, and resources. This clearinghouse would allow the state to negotiate data privacy agreements on behalf of all districts, eliminating the redundant work of individual contract review and negotiation. Currently, each district is required to independently obtain and interpret these contracts, resulting in significant time and legal expenses.

We support the potential selection of LearnPlatform by Instructure as a common platform. However, we urge you to also consider integrating a state-maintained clearinghouse to minimize the current duplication of effort across Ohio's 611 school districts.

We believe this approach would significantly streamline compliance, reduce costs, and ensure consistent data privacy practices statewide.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information. I would be pleased to discuss this matter in more detail at your convenience. Thank you for your attention to this important issue and for your continued dedication to the students of Ohio.

Sincerely,

M. Denise Lutz, Ed.D., CETL
Chief Excellence and Engagement Officer
Upper Arlington City Schools

Ohio Senate Education Committee
Public Testimony on H.B. 96
1EdTech, CEO – Curtiss Barnes 5/14/25

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Curtiss Barnes, and I'm the CEO of 1EdTech, a nonprofit collaborative with more than 1,200 members, including school districts, higher education institutions, government and non-government agencies, and edtech suppliers.

Together, we work globally to ensure that educational technology ecosystems are secure, efficient, and aligned with learner needs. We do that by establishing a broad range of technology interoperability and practice standards under open source licenses that can be used by any organization in the edtech ecosystem.

I'd like to especially thank Dr. Denise Lutz for her testimony today and for her district's leadership in advancing student data privacy in Ohio.

Senate Bill 29 sets an important foundation by requiring districts to track and publish their data privacy agreements with technology vendors. And as we've seen across the country and internationally, good policy alone isn't enough—districts need the operational tools to meet these requirements consistently and efficiently.

Many districts today manage vendor vetting manually, with limited staff and fragmented systems. It's a difficult task even for the best-resourced schools—let alone smaller or rural districts without dedicated technology compliance staff.

That's why this budget amendment is so important. It supports a centralized compliance infrastructure that would give all districts—regardless of size or capacity—access to tools that simplify the tracking of approved apps, ensure vendor privacy compliance, and reduce administrative burden.

At 1EdTech, we have worked with states like Georgia to deploy statewide platforms that leverage shared resources to offset the cost of conducting their own vendor vettings and creating consistent processes for managing privacy obligations.

Through our TrustEd Apps™ initiative, we evaluate edtech tools against a community-developed data privacy rubric aligned with FERPA, COPPA, and other relevant laws. To date, we've vetted over 12,000 applications for data privacy compliance, and have granted certification to nearly 6,000 of them.

And our reach goes further. As a benefit to 1EdTech members, we maintain a database of over 12,000 vetted applications, providing visibility into tools that do not meet

certification thresholds—ensuring institutions can make informed decisions with full transparency.

This isn't just a national issue. Globally, we see similar challenges: fragmented vetting processes, inconsistent privacy documentation, and the growing need for shared standards and infrastructure. Ohio is not alone—and Ohio has an opportunity to lead.

This amendment is a nonpartisan, pragmatic investment. It enables the intent of SB 29 to be implemented with fidelity while reducing friction at the local level. It also ensures that student data privacy is not a compliance checkbox, rather a consistently upheld value.

1EdTech stands ready to support the State of Ohio by:

- **Providing trusted privacy vetting and certification infrastructure;**
- **Sharing tools like our Data Privacy and Security Agreement (DPSA) template, already adopted by early-implementer districts;**
- **And continuing our collaboration with education leaders and technology providers to keep the ecosystem aligned and accountable.**

Thank you for your time, for your leadership, and for your commitment to protecting student data. I'm happy to answer any questions.