

Ohio S.B. 29 Impact on Securly Products

Ohio's S.B. 29 addresses concerns over the inappropriate use of student data and undisclosed surveillance of students using school-issued devices. The law mandates transparency in data collection, prohibits non-educational use of data, and includes data deletion and breach notification requirements.

The legislation generally prohibits schools from monitoring students' activities outside school hours but allows monitoring for specific purposes such as educational support, locating devices, safety threats, and compliance with funding programs.

Securly offers K-12 safety and wellness solutions, focused on keeping students safe, secure and ready to learn. We have worked with our legal team to assess how our Ohio S.B. 29 would impact the use of Securly products in Ohio.

S.B. 29 does not apply to the following Securly products:

Observe, Pass, Flex, MDM and Rhithm

- **Observe** is used by teachers and staff to record their own observations. It is not used to monitor student online activities or access information about those activities.
- **Pass** is used to issue and manage hall passes; and it is not monitoring or accessing information about a student's online behaviors.
- **Flex** is used to manage student flex scheduling and it is not monitoring or accessing information about student online behaviors.
- **MDM** enables schools to manage the app approval process, website access, and to make content available or unavailable to students. It does not collect information about how students interact with approved apps or contents on school-issued devices.
- **Rhithm** involves students actively answering short questions, rather than passively monitoring their behaviors.



Securly's other products align to Ohio S.B. 29's exceptions for educational purposes and safety concerns. Ensuring compliance while continuing to support schools in protecting and guiding students

The legislation generally prohibits schools from monitoring students' online activities, but it provides exceptions for specific purposes. The exceptions in Ohio S.B. 29 are:

- Non-commercial educational purposes for instruction, technical support, or exam proctoring
- Location of lost or stolen devices
- Prevention of or response to a threat to life or safety, where the access is limited to that purpose
- As necessary to participate in federal or state funding programs

Securly Classroom:

Securly notes that some features of its Classroom solution may fall under S.B. 29, but they are covered by exceptions for non-commercial educational purposes. Teachers use Classroom to enhance instructional time by keeping students focused and engaged, which qualifies as a non-commercial educational purpose.

Securly Filter:

Securly notes that some features of its Filter solution may fall under S.B. 29, but its use during school hours is covered by exceptions for non-commercial educational purposes, participation in federal/state funding programs, and preventing/responding to threats to life or safety. The Filter solution blocks illegal or harmful content, fulfilling both educational and compliance purposes. Its use to identify at-risk students also aligns with safety exceptions. The recommended privacy mode allows general monitoring with pseudonymous identifiers, accessing detailed data only when necessary. Additionally, AI Chat for Filter supports responsible AI use, aligning with non-commercial educational purposes.

Securly Aware:

Securly notes that some features of its Aware solution may fall under S.B. 29, but its use is covered by exceptions for prevention of or response to a threat to life or safety, where the access is limited to that purpose. Aware monitors and analyzes students' online activities (such as email, social media, and web browsing) to detect signs of anxiety, depression, cyberbullying, self-harm, and potential violence. Aware generates alerts, assesses the severity of flagged activities, and prompts students to reconsider sending flagged messages.

Securly Discern:

Securly notes that some features of Discern solution fall under S.B. 29, but its use is covered by exceptions for prevention of or response to a threat to life or safety, where the access is limited to that purpose. Also Discern can be used to identify students in need of academic interventions and therefore its use is covered by the exception for non-commercial educational purposes for instruction.

Securly Reveal:

Securly notes that some features of Reveal solution fall under S.B. 29, but its use is covered by exceptions non-commercial educational purpose. Reveal collects data on students' website and app usage, consolidating it into a dashboard to help schools make informed decisions about edtech purchases based on student usage patterns. While this involves monitoring student interactions with school-issued devices, it serves a non-commercial educational purpose—helping schools select instructional resources more effectively and providing technical support for their educational programs