



BERKSHIRE LOCAL SCHOOLS

Encourage. Inspire. Prepare.

Parents/Guardians:

As part of our commitment to student safety and responsible digital use, Berkshire Local School District uses Securly to monitor student activity on district-issued devices. This monitoring is in compliance with Ohio Senate Bill 29, which requires school districts to provide parents with transparency regarding the monitoring and use of student devices.

What You Need to Know:

- **Device Monitoring:** The district monitors student devices for noncommercial educational purposes such as instruction, technical support, and exam proctoring. This monitoring is also required to participate in federal or state funding programs. Schools and libraries must certify compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) to receive E-rate funding. CIPA compliance requires that we monitor the online activities of minors and implement internet safety policies that restrict access to harmful content. To achieve this, we use Lightspeed to filter students' internet access by monitoring network traffic to determine whether content should be allowed or blocked.
- **Purpose:** Monitoring helps us detect and prevent inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and unsafe behavior online. It also allows us to provide a secure digital environment for students.
- **Compliance with Senate Bill 29:** Ohio Senate Bill 29 mandates that schools inform parents about any monitoring of student devices, ensuring transparency and accountability in our efforts to protect students online.
- **Privacy & Security:** While we respect student privacy, this monitoring is required to ensure a safe educational space. The data collected is used solely for this purpose and in accordance with district policies and legal regulations.
- **Securly:** Inappropriate websites are blocked both at school and at home when students are using district devices. This includes social media, explicit content, and sites not aligned with educational goals.

Parental Support: We encourage parents to discuss responsible technology use with their children and review the school's Personal Communication Device (PCD) policy. Open conversations at home can help reinforce good digital citizenship and online safety.

If you have any questions about device monitoring or would like more information about Securly or Senate Bill 29, please contact the technology department at technology@berkshireschools.org

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe online!