



**Wayland Public Schools
A Letter to Staff**

January 27, 2017

Dear Wayland Staff,

Wayland Public Schools prides itself on educational advancements in the area of blended and personalized learning through the use of technology. Through the transformation of classrooms and teaching methods that effectively use technology, our students have the opportunity to achieve mastery of skills and knowledge that will prepare them for college, careers and citizenship in our ever-changing digital world.

This transformation has been accomplished through high quality teaching supported by the use of digital resources. Many of these digital resources require the creation of online student accounts. Our children's education has been significantly enhanced by the use of these online resources, and we want to be sure that personal data about our students is protected as they continue to use these technologies to personalize learning. In celebration of [Data Privacy Day](#) (January 28, 2017), we would like to update you on our progress in securing our students' data.

Recognizing the importance of using quality educational resources that adhere to the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), the *Children's Internet Protection Act* (CIPA), and the *Children's Online Privacy Protection Act* (COPPA) and that keep all online student data secure, we are thoughtfully and carefully selecting and implementing online applications into the curriculum. We are working with the Massachusetts Student Privacy Alliance (MSPA) to obtain legal Student Data Privacy agreements signed by Wayland Public Schools and online vendors. These agreements define how student data is handled for each online application. The Student Data Privacy agreement ensures that vendors are managing our students' data in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The agreements for Wayland Public Schools that have been signed thus far are posted on the MSPA website. On the rare occasion when an online vendor declines to sign our agreement, and we believe the online site brings educational value and uses best practices for data safety, we will request parents/guardians approve the use of the website for their student by signing a Parent Release/Permission Form.

You can visit our website to learn more about our student privacy initiative with the Massachusetts Student Privacy Alliance (MSPA) and about Federal and State laws guiding our policies and protocol. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the steps our schools are taking with regard to student data privacy. Together we can help protect our student data in this ever changing world of technology that has impacted teaching and learning in an extremely positive and personalized way.

- [Wayland Public Schools - Student Data Privacy](#)
- [Massachusetts Student Privacy Alliance \(MSPA\)](#)

I am wishing you and all our students technology-based educational enrichment and safe computing in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Leisha Simon, Director of Technology