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District Earns High Marks for Protecting Student Data

Joins Select List of Districts Recognized for Strong Measures to Safeguard Student Privacy in Digital Age

(MEDINA, OH, April 10, 2017) The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) – the premier national association for school system technology leaders – announced at its Annual Conference on April 4 that the Highland Local School District in Medina, OH, has earned the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal. The Seal is a mark of distinction for school systems that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to protecting student data privacy.

Highland is one of five school systems recognized, joining a select group of 12 TLE Seal recipients from small, large, urban and suburban communities across the nation. The Seal is awarded only to school systems that have met a rigorous set of data privacy and security standards – issues that have come into greater focus for parents and communities as educators harness modern technology to personalized learning for students.

"As classrooms embrace the benefits of technology in modern learning settings, protecting student data has become a serious priority for school systems, parents and communities. Through their commitment to building 'trusted learning environments,' school systems like the Highland School District are leading the way and setting examples for others to follow," said Keith Krueger, CEO of CoSN.

"We are very proud of the work of our staff to meet the rigorous criteria for the Trusted Learning Environment Seal. We will use the feedback from the process to continue to improve our policies and processes that protect student data. This will continue to be an important priority for the Highland Local School District," said Laurie Boedicker, Highland's Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The Highland Local School District earned the Seal for demonstrating effective practices in each of the following areas:

- **Leadership**, including managing and collaborating with stakeholders regarding the use and governance of student data to inform instruction.
- **Business**, including establishing acquisition vetting processes and contracts that, at minimum, address applicable compliance with laws while supporting innovation.
- **Data Security**, including performing regular audits of data privacy and security practices and publicly detailing these measures.
- **Professional Development**, including requiring school staff to conduct privacy and security training and offering related resources to all stakeholders in the community.
- **Classroom**, including implementing educational procedures and processes to ensure transparency while advancing curricular goals.

School systems awarded the TLE Seal will be required to maintain their commitment to digital privacy and reapply every two years.

Developed for all K-12 schools nationwide, the TLE Seal was formed through the input from 28 school system leaders, as well as CoSN and lead partners: AASA, The School Superintendents Association; the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO); and ASCD. Their collective expertise and experiences pinpointed the steps schools should take – beyond regulatory compliance – to help ensure student data privacy and security.

Learn more about the TLE Seal at trustedlearning.org.