While a number of resources offer general materials to help schools strengthen their technical privacy and security infrastructure and use their data and technology responsibly (e.g., avoiding bias when using AI systems), there are times where more targeted assistance is needed. To that end, the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) is piloting office hours-style webinars to offer direct assistance to schools, districts, and other education-related organizations in managing privacy, security, and ethics in their technology programs.

For instance, how should you handle securely transferring student information outside the education system? Which privacy and security skill sets should you list in job descriptions for your Information Technology (IT) and other staff? Which security requirements should you look for when procuring new software and applications?

CDT houses legal, policy, and technical experts so that we can consider data and technology questions from a variety of angles. Using our own expertise, as well as drawing on connections with other experts in the field (such as disability advocates, computer scientists, academics, and others), we aim to provide nuanced, actionable, direct guidance to help schools and districts address the specific problems they are facing as they serve and educate students.

How it works:
- Organizations email their questions to CDT at CivicTech@cdt.org.
- CDT reviews questions to determine which are best answered by our experts, whether there are questions that it makes sense to combine or separate, and, in some cases, reach out to partners who may be able to help answer questions (particularly if there is strong interest in a question that is outside CDT's expertise).
- CDT publishes a time for a webinar-style session on the selected questions. Where possible, these sessions will be recorded for later viewing, but this might not be possible if the questions are sensitive or the asker doesn't want the session recorded.
- Webinar participants can ask for clarification or follow up questions regarding the questions posed that day.

Who we are:
CDT is a nonpartisan 501-c3 non-profit that has been working at the intersection of technology and policy for over 25 years. CDT's Equity and Civic Technology project has a strong focus on student and educational data. It aims to provide balanced advocacy, and create solutions-oriented policy resources that are grounded in real-world problems. Additionally, it offers technical guidance that can be adapted and implemented by policymakers, practitioners, and the technology providers who support them.

For more information about the program, please email Hannah Quay-de la Vallee at hannah@cdt.org.