

OLTD 506 Reflection of Evidence #2- Social Media Tool Backgrounder and Consent Form

For my second piece of evidence in OLTD 506, I have chosen my Social Media Tool Backgrounder and Consent Form. These assignments required me to dig deep into the FreshGrade social media tool. I had to create a document for my parents and students with all of the important information about my tool by giving an overview of the tool, where the storage and access of the information, possible risks as well as other information important to the use of this tool in the classroom. The consent form consists of a tool description, educational rationale for use as well as activities, personal information provided by students, the duration of use, data storage information, behavior expectations and consequences, data storage information and a signatures portion to be returned to school.

The OLTD 506 Program outcome this work reflects are :

Develop draft backgrounder for tool aligned to BC public institution requirements.

Develop draft consent form for tool aligned to BC public institution requirements.

Developing these documents forced me to use the information I learned from the Basics and Boundaries and apply them to inform my parents and my student about a specific social media tool to be used in class. I gained an awareness of all of the important components to add in order to accurately inform them in order to follow the BC public institution requirements. Educators need to be aware that each social media tool, requiring user information and data entry, needs to have its own backgrounder and consent form as each has different privacy regulations that need to be clear to parents and students. In BC, public educators are bound by FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) regulations. Teachers need to be aware that many social media tools do not store data in Canada and pose a risk to those who use them. These social media tools require informed consent for data stored outside of Canada. There is always a risk to use tools who store data outside Canada as user data could be shared with 3rd parties, without the users knowledge. At this point, they no longer know where their data has gone and with whom it has been shared. By clearly identifying the social media tool, and its use, as well as the privacy regulations, teachers are applying due diligence and following the required steps to keep their students data as safe as possible.

In my own context, when I started using FreshGrade a few years ago, I used the school district consent form provided. I did not ask any questions because I believed the district had made sure all was covered. By looking at the consent form now, they did cover some aspects but could have added more. I am aware now that it is my job to make sure that I have knowledge around the rules and regulation for social media tool use and I need to ensure that my parents and students are aware. In September, at our school, we ask that our students sign a form for technology use. This mostly covers responsible tech use. We use more tools other than FreshGrade but I have yet to see anyone sending any forms home to give information as well as to get informed consent. I feel a staff meeting presentation and a district meeting in the future!!