

A Cyberattack Illuminates the Shaky State of Student Privacy | The New York Times

By Natasha Singer

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At a moment when education technology firms are stockpiling sensitive information on millions of school children, safeguards for student data have broken down. The software that many school districts use to track students' progress can record extremely confidential information on children: "Intellectual disability." "Emotional Disturbance." "Homeless." "Disruptive." "Defiance." "Perpetrator." "Excessive Talking." "Should attend tutoring."

Now these systems are coming under heightened scrutiny after a recent cyberattack on Illuminate Education, a leading provider of student-tracking software, which affected the personal information of more than a million current and former students across dozens of districts — including in New York City and Los Angeles, the nation's largest public school systems.

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