



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: All System Leaders

FROM: State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley *Cade Brumley*

DATE: January 3, 2023

SUBJECT: TikTok

The safety of Louisiana's students is the top responsibility of educators. Over the last few years, cybersecurity has emerged as a new battlefield requiring attention.

Presently, national security experts¹ are raising alarms regarding *TikTok*, a video sharing application owned by a Chinese parent company. While this is a popular application, *TikTok's* lack of data privacy measures are extremely concerning. For example, various reports² have highlighted the lack of safeguards³ in place to prevent foreign governments from gaining access to private information stored on users' mobile devices.

Therefore, I am advising schools and school systems to immediately remove *TikTok* or any other applications developed by *ByteDance Limited* from any publicly-funded devices. Further, I am recommending that *TikTok* be eliminated as a communication outlet for school systems and schools including co-curricular clubs, extracurricular organizations, and sports teams.

Using *TikTok* may create legal ramifications due to the potential release of personally identifiable student information. Further, and more importantly, we must take every precaution to safeguard student privacy today and into their futures.

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/technology-china-united-states-national-security-government-and-politics-ac5c29cafaa1fc6bee990ed7e1fe5afc>

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/emilybaker-white/2022/10/20/tiktok-bytedance-surveillance-american-user-data/?sh=2b331f206c2d>

³ https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-house-bans-tiktok-on-phones-of-representatives-and-staff-11672242774?mod=tech_lead_pos7;
<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/emilybakerwhite/tiktok-tapes-us-user-data-china-bytedance-access>