Navigating POPA: Stories of Practice from Alberta School Authorities

Friday, November 6
9:00 am - 10:15 am

CASS College of Alberta School Superintendents

Continuing Education Program

Presenters

- Sean Beaton, Superintendent of Schools, Livingstone Range School Division

- Grace Garcia Cooke, KC, General Counsel, Edmonton Public Schools

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Professional Practice Standard Competencies



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As a result of participating in this session, participants will have the opportunity to:

- explore emerging lessons and considerations from Alberta school authorities as they navigate POPA implementation.

- examine how local context, organizational structures, and system capacity may influence approaches to privacy requirements and practices.

- identify leadership and operational considerations that can inform ongoing POPA implementation within their own school authorities.

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Outline for this Session

- Opening Table Group Conversation
- Sharing of Stories of Practice
- Table Group Discussion - Implications for local practice
- Large Group Sharing
- Closing

Questions and Curiosities

What brought you to this session today?

In your table group, share one **question**, **challenge**, or **emerging consideration** related to implementing POPA in your school authority.



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Livingstone Range SCHOOL DIVISION

Sean Beaton

Superintendent

The Local Context: POPA Off the Side of the Desk

The Reality: Navigating comprehensive legislation with a three-person senior leadership team.

The Challenge: Balancing the operational demands of POPA implementation with overarching system leadership.

Implementation Realities: PIAs and Daily Practice

Digital Tools & PIAs: Navigating the depth, breadth, and sheer volume of information required to evaluate instructional technology.

Evaluating the Noise: Determining which conversations around privacy are productive for student safety and which are symptoms of implementation anxiety.

Building Capacity

The Adaptive Shift: Moving privacy from a central office "compliance checklist" to a standing item on school admin agendas.

Refining Practice: Collaboratively auditing routine communications, anecdotal records, counselling files, and discipline logs.

The Goal: Empowering school-based leaders to manage data without paralyzing daily operations.

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Grace Garcia Cooke, KC

General Counsel

Practical Tips Related to Privacy

- Opinions about students, parents, staff (Order F2020-23)
- Parents recording meetings with staff
- Parent requests for student records, counselling records (Order F2012-21)
  - Requests for records as part of a family law dispute

Table Group Discussion

1. What resonates from the stories of practice based on your school authority's experience, and what differs?

2. How might your school authority's structure, capacity, or local context influence its approach?

3. What is one leadership or operational consideration you want to explore further?



Prepare **one insight or one question** to contribute to the whole-room conversation.

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Closing Comments



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Thank you!

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