

Discovery Education + IBM SkillsBuild Privacy & Data Use

Summary

When educators access IBM SkillsBuild through Discovery Education, they register directly on IBM's platform (skillsbuild.org) and agree to IBM's Privacy Policy and Terms of Use at the time of registration. Discovery Education is not transferring student or educator data to IBM. IBM independently collects and manages user data in accordance with its own Data Processing Addendum and IBM SkillsBuild DPA Exhibit, both available at ibm.com/dpa.

Access to the platform can be limited to authorized users through unique registration URLs managed by Discovery Education. The program is designed for high school educators and students ages 13 and up.

For detailed information about IBM's data practices, districts can review IBM's Privacy Statement at ibm.com/privacy.

Overview

Discovery Education partners with IBM to provide access to IBM SkillsBuild content through Discovery Education's ecosystem. The partnership is structured to ensure student and educator data is handled responsibly, securely, and solely for educational purposes.

No student data is sold, monetized, or used for targeted advertising. Districts retain control over participation and access.

What Data Is Collected

Only limited data necessary to deliver and support the IBM SkillsBuild program is processed.

This may include basic account information, course participation and completion data, digital credentials earned, and system access or usage information.

Sensitive personal data such as Social Security numbers, financial data, health information, or biometric data is not required or collected.

How the Data Is Used

Data is used solely to operate, support, and secure the IBM SkillsBuild learning experience.

Permitted uses include providing access to courses and professional development, maintaining platform security, and producing aggregate, non-identifiable engagement reporting.

Data is not used for commercial resale, profiling, or targeted advertising.

District Control and Access Management

Discovery Education controls platform access and authorizes who may be designated as a user.

Districts may implement configurations that limit access to authorized user groups, including educator-only participation.

Access may be managed through Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI), managed enrollment, or credential controls, and may be revoked at any time.

IBM Data Processing Addendum (DPA)—Access Control Clarification

IBM acts as a processor and processes personal data solely based on Discovery Education's documented instructions.

IBM may not independently expand, repurpose, or combine personal data beyond the scope of the agreed services.

Discovery Education serves as the single point of contact and instruction for IBM on behalf of participating school districts.

Accordingly, where a district elects an educator-only implementation, IBM is contractually required to process only educator data and not student data.

IBM may not combine, use, retain or disclose client personal data outside the direct business relationship or agreed services and will not sell or share data. This means that the data Discover Education controls stays with Discovery Education. Since we are bound by DPAs with schools, we can only grant access to the level agreed to in said DPAs.

Using data with AI falls under the above statement, so data may only be used for purposes of training AI to the extent allowed for between a school and Discovery Education.

Student Privacy, Consent, and Compliance

Discovery Education and IBM comply with applicable student privacy laws, including FERPA, COPPA, and relevant state privacy requirements.

Districts remain responsible for providing required notices and obtaining parental or guardian consent where applicable.

IBM processes data only for the duration and purposes of the agreed services.

Data Location, Security, and Retention

Data associated with the IBM SkillsBuild partnership is processed in the United States.

Industry-standard technical and organizational safeguards are in place.

Upon termination or expiration of services, data is returned or deleted in accordance with contractual and legal requirements.