

Title: Student Data Ethics Crisis in Japan

Overview: This report outlines the alarming ethical violations occurring under the banner of Japan's "GIGA School Initiative." It reveals how private vendors—particularly Sky Corporation and DNP—are collecting, storing, and possibly monetizing children's learning behavior data without informed consent, parental access, or any transparency. These actions would constitute major breaches of law and ethics under global standards.

1. Covert Data Collection of Children's Activities

Educational platforms like SKYMENU Cloud and AI-based learning systems provided by DNP are designed to record detailed data on students' learning behavior, reactions, and usage patterns. However:

- No consent is obtained from parents or guardians.
- No mechanisms exist for students or parents to access or verify the logs collected.
- There is no opt-out or review process for families.

In other words, children are being digitally monitored without their knowledge, and their behavioral data is being captured invisibly.

2. Parental Rights and Legal Frameworks

Under regulations like the EU's GDPR and the US's COPPA:

- Parents must be explicitly informed and must consent to data collection involving minors.
- Parents have the right to inspect, correct, and delete their children's data.
- Failure to meet these obligations can result in substantial financial penalties and lawsuits.

Japan's current practice, by contrast, appears to deliberately block parental visibility while allowing vendors access to student behavior logs.

3. Commercial Use of Behavioral Data

The collected data is believed to be used for:

- AI model training for adaptive learning systems.
- Product development and educational tool optimization.
- Potential resale or statistical aggregation by vendors.

This amounts to the unauthorized commercial use of minors' data, often referred to as a form of "digital child labor" in international ethics circles.

4. The Role of Google's Brand

While the GIGA program officially uses Google Workspace for Education, critical Google features like Vault (for email auditing and logs) have been deliberately disabled or bypassed. Google's brand and infrastructure are being exploited as a mask of legitimacy for systems that would not pass ethical scrutiny on their own.

Conclusion:

These practices are not merely technical oversights—they represent a system architected to avoid scrutiny, deny parental rights, and exploit children's data for undisclosed commercial or analytical purposes.

“Look at this, Andrew. This is Tragic Japan – a G7 country in name only.”

We urge Google to conduct an internal review of how its name and infrastructure are being used in Japan's GIGA initiative, and to consider stronger global safeguards to prevent similar misuse in other regions.

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