

We are #StudentsNotProducts.

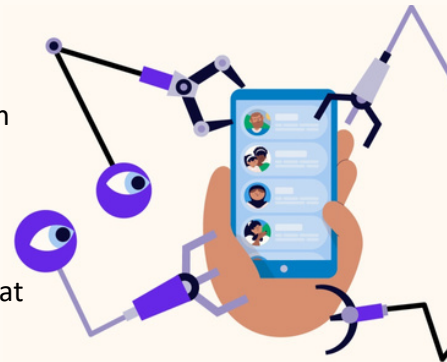
Governments around the world endorsed the use of education technologies (EdTech) during Covid-19 school closures. Six months into the pandemic, the amount of time kids around the world spent in education apps increased by 90%. Human Rights Watch examined more than 150 EdTech products, recommended by 49 governments (including India, Taiwan, and the United States) of the world's most populated countries, to check how they handled student's data. To read the full report visit: <https://www.hrw.org/StudentsNotProducts>

What did Human Rights Watch find?

Many EdTech products surveilled students, harvested their personal data, and sent it to advertising technology (AdTech) companies. In most cases, students, parents and teachers were kept in the dark. Some harvested data on who students are, where they are, what they do in their virtual classroom, and what kind of device their families could afford for them to use. Many installed tracking technologies that followed students across the internet, outside the virtual classroom and deep into their private lives.

Some key report statistics:

- 89% of the EdTech products HRW looked at monitored or could monitor students, in most cases secretly and without the consent of children or their parents.
- HRW found that 140+ EdTech products directly sent or granted access to students' personal data to 196 AdTech Companies.
- Of the 49 governments HRW looked at, 48 endorsed at least one EdTech product that risked or infringed on students' rights.



How does this affect students and why does this matter?

Governments failed to protect students' human rights to education and privacy. By endorsing and enabling the wide adoption of EdTech products without adequate safeguards or oversight, students' rights to privacy and access to information, and potentially their freedom of thought were violated. Children's reliance on digital services that enable their education will likely continue long after the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This is scary. Especially us kids, we blindly trust our country, the whole education system, because we don't question these things yet. We don't have enough experience. ... As kids, we feel powerless. What can I even do as a kid to stop these companies? That idea itself hurts a lot."

— Priyanka S., 16, Uttar Pradesh, India

What can I do?

- **Educate your community.** Hold a data-privacy simulation, so students can learn how EdTech and AdTech companies collect, buy, and sell students' data without consent.
- **Ask your schools or school districts** what they are doing to protect students' privacy in online classrooms. Meet with the decision makers in person to voice your concerns.
- **Tell your lawmakers to act now.** Call, email, or write a letter advocating for national modern child data protection laws.

Visit our Action Plan to get started:

<https://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/studentsnotproducts/>

