FERPA Overview for IT Decision Makers in Education

Understanding FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law established in 1974 to protect the privacy of student education records. It applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

Key FERPA Requirements

- **Access Controls:** Ensure only authorized personnel can access education records.
- **Data Encryption:** Encrypt student data both in transit and at rest.
- **Audit Trails:** Maintain logs of access and changes to student records.

IT Best Practices for FERPA Compliance

- **Regular Training:** Conduct training sessions on FERPA and cybersecurity.
- **Data Integrity and Backup:** Implement regular data backups and integrity checks.
- **Breach Notification:** Establish protocols for timely notifications in case of data breaches.

Implementing Secure IT Systems

- **Secure Software Development:** Use secure practices in software development.
- **Third-Party Vendor Management:** Ensure compliance of all third-party vendors with FERPA.

Regular Compliance Audits

- **Internal Audits:** Regularly review and enhance compliance measures.
- **External Audits:** Occasionally bring in external auditors to verify compliance and uncover vulnerabilities.

How TPx Can Help

Virtual Compliance Officer (VCO)

Imagine if you had access to an expert who could seamlessly navigate and manage your business's information security compliance with FERPA. That's what TPx's Virtual Compliance Officer (VCO) service offers: specialized support to design, implement and manage the information security program and controls required under regulatory frameworks, including FERPA.

Security Awareness Training

TPx's security awareness training (SAT) offering includes monthly phishing simulations and courses with automated reporting to track results.

Managed Backups

With ransomware continuing to threaten education entities, TPx's managed backup can help you quickly restore your systems and data locally or from the cloud.

Security Advisory Services

We offer comprehensive security consulting services that can help improve your security posture and protect your business, including creating and managing your incident response plan, doing penetration and vulnerability scanning, monitoring dark web and more.
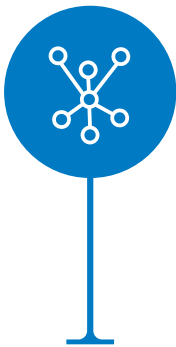
TPx Solutions

TPX

An in-depth view of your security posture

Security Advisory Services

Connect to locations, clients and the cloud
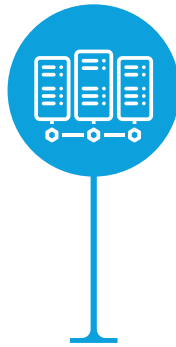
Connectivity

Monitoring and managing critical LAN infrastructure

Networks

Ensure IT systems, apps, data are available 24/7/365

Datacenters

Managed Microsoft 365 via Microsoft Experts

Microsoft 365

Enterprise VoIP, messaging, meetings and collaboration

UCx with Webex

In/outbound call center and Agent/Supervisor clients

Call Center
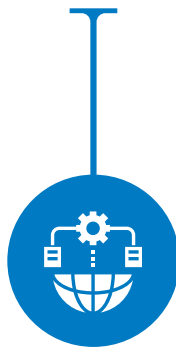
WE MAKE IT EASY

Firewall

Fully customized perimeter security with next-gen firewall

Endpoints

Secure and up-to-date hardware and servers

SD-WAN

Better network performance, more agility, and lower cost

Backup

Fast local backups/ restores using best-in-class hybrid technology

UCx SmartVoice

SIP and Hybrid SIP with UC

UCx with MS Teams

Enterprise-grade PSTN and global connectivity for MSFT Teams