Somerset Virtual Academy

Secure Data Collection, Storage and Transmission:

Both our LMS and SIS are only accessible via a Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (https) portals. From account creation to account access, the systems are protected using 128-bit encryption. Students and teachers, once logged into their respective portal, are in a Demilitarized Zone (or perimeter network) which is not accessible to external sources.

Each system has its own internal database, which is not directly accessible to other platforms. Communication and the ability to manipulate and transmit data is achieved by means of an automated programming interface (API) which requires authentication prior to data transmission. Calls to manipulate database values are only granted permission based on the rights of the authenticated user.

We can support a complete data-sharing capability through a secure and programmable reporting interface. Any data from the database can be exported in a variety of formats.

Below are some security practices employed in our LMS, which is where teachers and students spend the majority of their time. More information can be found here: https://support.agilix.com/hc/en-us/articles/208198586

- **Regular security updates: Every week the LMS is updated with the latest enhancements, bug fixes, and security improvements. All updates from external services are tested by software and humans before rolling out, to avoid disrupting customers.**
- **Secure data access: Our API provides secure access to Cosmos data over SSL.**
  Authentication: We support external identity providers (IdPs) for single sign-on (SSO) with CAS and SAML, so users can sign into one application and be automatically logged into Cosmos without needing to re-enter credentials. This feature can help eliminate the need for teachers and students to have multiple credential sets.
- **Physical security: Cosmos uses Amazon Web Services (AWS). AWS protects a global infrastructure of hardware, software, networking, and facilities, and is designed and managed around a variety of best practices and global security standards. AWS participates in various assurance**

programs, including **FERPA**, and is regularly independently audited (see https://aws.amazon.com/compliance for full details).

☐ **Protocol and session security:** We use HTTPS for all communication and encrypts all inbound and outbound traffic using 128-bit TLS/SSL.

Each employee (teacher, counselor, administrator or technician), with access to student information, is provided with a copy of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is required to acknowledge its receipt in writing.