

LASSO Platform Privacy Policy and Terms of Use

Effective as of August 21, 2017

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Overview

The Learning About STEM Student Outcomes (LASSO) platform is accessible to members of the Learning Assistant Alliance. LASSO provides a simple online solution for administering, scoring, and analyzing student assessments. You will have full access to your students' responses. You will also have the option of giving a department or institution assessment coordinator access to your LASSO instructor portal. Once you have identified someone as your assessment coordinator, s/he will have the ability to create, administer, and download assessment results from your classes.

In addition to supporting individual instructors, LASSO is designed to support the improvement of education more broadly. To facilitate the rigorous empirically driven improvement of STEM education, data from your class(es) may be anonymized, aggregated with courses similar to yours, and shared with educational researchers who have approved IRB protocols. Each student who takes a LASSO assessment will be asked permission for their data to be anonymized and included in the LASSO research dataset. Anonymized data downloaded from the LASSO database may not be shared with individuals who are not listed on researchers' respective IRB protocols. For more information, please see our [LASSO FAQ](#). The Learning Assistant Alliance is a not for profit organization and is managed by a Leadership Council and the University of Colorado - Boulder.

The LASSO platform does not disclose, give, or transfer personally identifiable information to third parties without user consent or unless required by law.

Aggregated usage information is collected for statistical purposes and may be used to help improve the site. All usage information is collected such that an individual's use cannot be distinguished.

Personal Information Use

Personal data collected on this website is meant to personalize the experience of users and facilitate interactions within the LASSO platform. Registered users may configure what personal information is available to other platform users in their profile settings. Any contributions made by a user to the LASSO platform will be attributed to the appropriate account's profile. Any user can modify their profile at any time

to share or unshare specific parts of their profile.

The LASSO platform does not otherwise disclose, give, or transfer identifiable information to third parties without user consent or unless required by law.

User Contributions

Registered users may provide resource recommendations, forum postings, or other contributions to the LASSO platform. Such contributions are attributed to the name of the user making them. The LASSO team reserves the right to remove or alter contributed content.

If you wish to participate, please remember that information disclosed is available for viewing by other members of this community. Please exercise caution when deciding to disclose any sensitive information on the LASSO platform. Never submit content if you do not have the authority to share that information publicly.

Outside Links and Content

This site contains links to other sites. The LASSO platform is not responsible for the privacy practices or content of such Web sites. If you have concerns regarding a website we link to, we encourage you to contact the director of the LASSO team regarding your concerns.

E-Mail

Registered users may agree to allow the LASSO platform to send updates or further information to their e-mail account. A user's e-mail preferences can be managed on the user profile page.

Feedback

If a user provides contact information through contact@learningassistantalliance.org, it is used to respond directly to the user's questions or comments. We may also file comments to help improve the site. Your personal information would only be shared with third parties with your explicit permission.

Cookies

A cookie is a small piece of information that is sent to your browser when you access a Web page. A session cookie is a line of text that is stored temporarily in your computer's memory. Because a session cookie is never saved, it is destroyed when you close your browser. The LASSO platform uses session cookies during user visits to save preferences. Certain LASSO platform applications require session cookies to function correctly. If you have session cookies disabled, you may not be able to use certain features of our site.

A persistent cookie is a more permanent line of text that is saved by your browser to a file on your hard drive. The only persistent cookie regularly used by the LASSO platform is for registered users that choose to use the Auto-Login feature. Such cookies expire 30 days from login.

At times, a persistent cookie may be used for short-term research purposes as defined in New Features and Research. At this time, no such cookies are being used on the LA Alliance or have been used since the website inception.

Web Site Usage

Usage patterns of the LASSO platform site are automatically logged to help diagnose problems, analyze trends, and improve the usability and performance of the site. User access is anonymous and IP addresses are not linked to personally identifiable information.

In addition to internal logs, Google Analytics and Omniture SiteCatalyst page tagging solutions are used for logging. No personally identifiable information is provided to these logging services by the LA Alliance.

All logged information is collected in aggregate, such that the usage of individuals cannot be distinguished. Such aggregated information is shared with the National Science Digital Library for program evaluation. Additionally, aggregated information may be made available publicly, such as in program evaluation reports. Such aggregated information, such as the number of visitors to the LA Alliance website, does not include personally identifiable information.

New Features and Research

New features and interfaces are periodically developed for the LASSO platform. At such times, research may be conducted into the usage of the site to help improve its appearance, performance, or usability. For instance, a trial feature might be made available to a random sampling of anonymous users and usage statistics analyzed.

When appropriate, such research projects will be approved by an Institutional Review Board governed by Title 45 Part 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Approved research will be described at least 30 days prior to the research on the LAA page. Links to past research projects are also available. If any research on the LA Alliance results in a publication, users of the website will be notified on the front page of the LA Alliance website in the News area.

Additional Guidelines

The LASSO platform does not cater to visitors under 13 years old and will NOT store or require any personally identifiable information from users known to be under 13. If the LA Alliance learns that a user under the age of 13 has provided personally identifiable information, that user's identifiable information will be removed from the database. When a student turns 18 years old or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, all rights afforded to you as a parent under *FERPA* transfer to the student ("eligible student"). However, *FERPA* provides ways in which a school may—but is not required to—share information from an eligible student's education records with parents, without the student's consent.

Security

The LA Alliance website has security measures in place to protect against the loss, misuse, or alteration of information under our control. If you have any questions about the security of our site, please contact us at contact@learningassistantalliance.org.

The website uses a SSL certificate issued by Comodo and maintained by the University of Colorado Boulder Office of Information Technology's Shared Infrastructure Group. The certificate uses SHA256 encryption, as mandated by CU OIT.

Plain text passwords are not stored anywhere within the system. Password hashing is used. Prior to

hashing and at login, plain text passwords are passed to the server via SSL encryption. Password hashing currently uses the PHP 5.6 library and the CRYPT_BLOWFISH algorithm with an automatically generated salt and a default cost of 10.

Account Deletion

Any user can delete their account at any time by logging into their account and clicking profile settings.

Legal Disclaimer

We may disclose personal information when required by law or in good-faith believe that such action is necessary in order to conform to the edicts of the law.

Notification of Changes

We will notify registered users that have subscribed to receive LA Alliance updates if a change will be made to our privacy practices. Additionally, we will alert users on the front page of the LA Alliance website if our privacy practices change.

Policy Feedback

If you have questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact us at contact@learningassistantalliance.org.

Terms of Use

The LASSO platform is a resource for instructors to measure the learning and attitude changes of the students in their courses.

The LASSO platform provides information about and links to STEM education resources. Members of the LASSO team have screened these materials before inclusion on the site. Materials suggested by users for inclusion in the collection will be judged by the LASSO team on the accuracy, quality, and appropriateness of content to the mission of the collection. The LASSO team is not responsible for changes in materials outside of its control after links have been created, although inappropriate materials will be removed when found. Suggestions of new material or information about existing material in the collection are encouraged.

Only registered users may use the message boards. Considering the real-time nature of bulletin boards, it is impossible to verify the information posted. The LASSO platform does not vouch for nor warrant the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any message, and is not responsible for the contents of any message. Users should be particularly wary of medical, legal or other professional advice posted on the message boards and recognize that it is no substitute for in-person consultation with a competent professional. The messages express the views of the author of the message, not necessarily the views of the LASSO platform, the LAA, or any entity associated with it.

You agree, through your use of this service, that you will not use the LASSO platform to post any material that is knowingly false and/or defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, vulgar, hateful, harassing, obscene, profane, threatening, invasive of a person's privacy, or violative of U.S. law. You agree not to post material that in the opinion of the LASSO team fosters or promotes activity that is illegal in the U.S.

You agree not to post any copyrighted material unless the copyright is owned by you, except as permitted by the "fair use" provisions of the U.S. copyright laws (in general this means brief excerpts only). You agree to abide by the wishes of the board moderators in interpreting and enforcing these rules. Refusal to cooperate with board moderators or to abide by these rules is grounds for revocation of your posting privileges.

The message board is intended as a medium for discussion. Do not post advertisements, chain letters, pyramid schemes, or commercial solicitations. Posting of resources on the site should proceed through normal editorial channels. Do not post the same or similar messages or threads to multiple forums; multiple threads on the same topic; or an excessive number of threads on any topic within a limited period of time. We will notify the Internet service provider of any party posting objectionable messages.

Do not post links to pornography - the LASSO team will be the judge of what constitutes pornography. If you're not sure whether a link is appropriate, contact a member of the LASSO team before posting it.

Any user who feels a posted message is objectionable should contact the moderators of the affected forum by e-mail.

Acceptable Use Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

The LASSO platform's Acceptable Use Policy ("AUP") is intended to help enhance the use of this website by preventing unacceptable use. All users of the LASSO platform ("the platform") - those who access some of our Services but do not have accounts ("Guests"), as well as those who have registered accounts with us ("Members") - must comply with this AUP.

In accordance with our Terms & Conditions, we may remove any materials that, in our sole discretion, may be illegal, may subject us to liability, or which may violate this AUP. Your violation of this AUP may result in the suspension or termination of your membership account. This AUP should be read in conjunction with our Terms & Condition.

2. VIOLATIONS OF THE ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The following constitute violations of this AUP:

- Illegal use. Using the Website to transmit any material (by email, uploading, posting, or otherwise) that, intentionally or unintentionally, violates any applicable local, state, national or international law, or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder.
- Harm to minors. Using the Website to harm, or attempt to harm, minors in any way.
- Threats. Using the Website to transmit any material (by email, uploading, posting, or otherwise) that threatens or encourages bodily harm or destruction of property.
- Harassment. Using the Website to transmit any material (by email, uploading, posting, or otherwise) that harasses another.
- Fraudulent activity. Using the Website to make fraudulent offers to sell or buy products, items, or services or to advance any type of financial scam such as "pyramid schemes," "Ponzi schemes," and "chain letters."
- Forgery or impersonation. Adding, removing or modifying identifying network header information in an effort to deceive or mislead is prohibited. Attempting to impersonate any person by using forged headers or other identifying information is prohibited. The use of anonymous remailers or nicknames does not constitute impersonation. Using deliberately misleading headers ("munging" headers) in news postings in order to avoid spam email address collectors is allowed.
- Unsolicited commercial email/Unsolicited bulk email. Using the Website to transmit any unsolicited commercial email or unsolicited bulk email. Activities that have the effect of facilitating unsolicited commercial email or unsolicited bulk email whether or not that email is commercial in nature, are prohibited.
- Unauthorized access. Using the Website to access, or to attempt to access, the accounts of others, or to penetrate, or attempt to penetrate, security measures of the Website's or another entity's computer software or hardware, electronic communications system, or telecommunications system, whether or not the intrusion results in the corruption or loss of data.

- Copyright or trademark infringement. Using the Website to transmit any material (by email, uploading, posting, or otherwise) that infringes any copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, or other proprietary rights of any third party, including, but not limited to, the unauthorized copying of copyrighted material, the digitization and distribution of photographs from magazines, books, or other copyrighted sources, and the unauthorized transmittal of copyrighted software.
- Collection of personal data. Using the Website to collect, or attempt to collect, personal information about third parties without their knowledge or consent.
- Network disruptions and unfriendly activity. Using the Website for any activity which adversely affects the ability of other people or systems to use the Website or the Internet. This includes "denial of service" (DoS) attacks against another network host or individual user. Interference with or disruption of other network users, network services or network equipment is prohibited.

3. REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF THIS AUP

The LASSO platform that anyone who believes that there is a violation of this AUP direct the information to the director of the LASSO team.

If available, please provide the following information:

- The IP address used to commit the alleged violation
- The date and time of the alleged violation, including the time zone or offset from GMT
- Evidence of the alleged violation

Email with full header information provides all of the above. Other situations will require different methods of providing the above information.

The LASSO team may take any one or more of the following actions in response to complaints:

- issue warnings: written or verbal
- suspend the Member's forum posting privileges
- suspend the Member's account
- terminate the Member's account
- bill the Member for administrative costs and/or reactivation charges
- bring legal action to enjoin violations and/or to collect damages, if any, caused by the member

