Districts face an intimidating assortment of cybersecurity threats. Big-city school districts say that protecting their K-12 systems and implementing formal measures and policies on password-management are on the rise, in comparison to their rural counterparts.

**The Growing Importance of Student Data Privacy & Security**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Locale</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of 17 Major Industries, the education industry ranked last in cybersecurity.

**Cybersecurity Threats**
- Software Errors
- Social Engineering Attacks
- Inadequately Secured Email Credentials

**Cybersecurity Weaknesses**
- Low budgets and the IT staff structure are creating a poor cybersecurity environment
- Experienced a breach what resulted in operation disruption or loss of data in 2018
- As attacks increase and evolve, schools underestimate the importance of monitoring and protect their networks
- Say student-data privacy and security is NOT more important this year than last year
- 35% of data breaches were a result of human error
- 80% of hacking breaches used stolen credentials

6 Steps for Preventing and Cleaning Up Cyberattacks
1. Determine all of the systems that need to be protected the most, and build cyber protections from there
2. Train and retrain your staff
3. Consider restricting administrative access
4. Have an emergency response plan in place for a cyberattack
5. Monitor your networks
6. Set clear expectations for tech and education companies

Sources:
- [CDE Spotlight on Higher Education Cybersecurity](https://edscoop.com/education-ranked-worst-at-cybersecurity-out-of-17-major-industries)
- [https://www.cybintsolutions.com/industries-likely-to-get-hacked/](https://www.cybintsolutions.com/industries-likely-to-get-hacked/)