# CYBERSECURITY IN K-12 EDUCATION

Districts face an intimidating assortment of cybersecurity threats.[6] 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.[1]

## The Growing Importance of Student Data Privacy & Security[1]

**By Locale**

| Locale | % |
|---|---|
| Rural | 64% |
| Suburban | 68% |
| Urban | 82% |

(scale: 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100)

## Out of 17 Major Industries

The education industry ranked last in cybersecurity[3]

## Cybersecurity Threats

Software Errors
Social Engineering Attacks
Inadequately Secured Email Credentials[5]

## Cybersecurity Weaknesses

Application Security
Endpoint Security
Patching Cadence
Network Security[3]

**Low budgets** and the **IT staff structure** are creating a poor cybersecurity environment[3]

**22%** Experienced a breach what resulted in operation disruption or loss of data in 2018[2]

As attacks increase and evolve, schools underestimate the importance of monitoring and protect their networks[3]

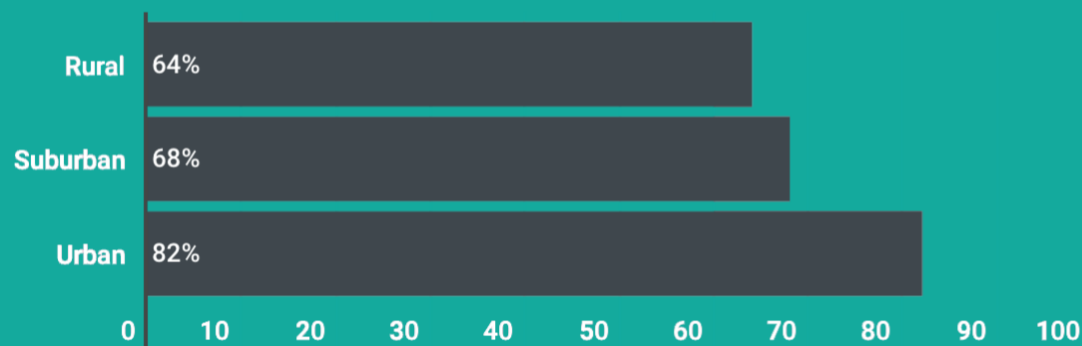**32%** Say student-data privacy and security is NOT more important this year than last year[1]

**35%** of data breaches were a result of human error[5]

**80%** of hacking breaches used stolen credentials[5]

### 6 Steps for Preventing and Cleaning Up Cyberattacks[6]

**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:

https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/technology/2019/03/20/rural-school-districts-lag-behind-in-cybersecurity.html[1]
CDE Spotlight on Higher Education Cybersecurity[2]
https://edscoop.com/education-ranked-worst-at-cybersecurity-out-of-17-major-industries/[3]
https://www.cybintsolutions.com/industries-likely-to-get-hacked/[4]
https://edscoop.com/educations-openness-a-unique-security-challenge-verizon-says-in-data-breach-report/[5]

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