

K-12 Perspective on Cybersecurity

Presented by Rachel Wentz-Chaney, Chief Information Officer
High Desert Education Service District
in partnership with
Oregon's technology leaders in K-12 school districts and ESDs
and the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts

The Current Landscape

- 197 school districts and 19 ESDs that support Oregon's 560,000+ students.
- Our organizations run information and technology systems at enterprise scale.
- We are targets of cyber criminals.
- Oregon districts have been victims of:
 - ransomware attacks that resulted in disruption and school closures
 - phishing attacks that resulted in financial losses and/or theft of personally identifiable information
 - information systems breaches that jeopardized continuity of education and student data privacy both

The Efforts So Far

- Investments in:
 - technical security systems
 - staff training
 - cybersecurity insurance
- Collaboration on:
 - training for engineers and security staff
 - regional response teams
 - incident response planning and risk management

But...this has occurred in pockets, not consistently across the state. The risk is consistent across the state.

What Comes Next

- The cyber threat landscape is projected to worsen in the years ahead (Department of Homeland Security).
- The call to action for school districts and ESDs is to:
 - elevate cybersecurity risk management to boards and executives
 - modernize and secure legacy and current technology systems
 - improve security for our users—students, educators, families, community
 - operationalize the security lifecycle
- The call to action requires:
 - short-term grants to remediate technical debt
 - longer-term investments in security for both people and technology
 - workforce development and regional security partnerships

Our Support for H.B. 4155

- We cannot accomplish this work on our own. And cybersecurity defense is better with partners. Therefore, we support H.B. 4155, as it:
 - adds K-12 voices to the Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council, the governing body of Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence
 - positions Oregon to efficiently compete for and receive federal infrastructure funding for the longer-term work ahead
 - provides grant opportunities for the short-term needs of K-12, cities, counties, and other public entities
 - invests in cybersecurity workforce development and public awareness

Thank you.

Peers and Partners

- Stuart Long, Northwest Regional ESD and Cascade Technology Alliance
- Cheri Rhinhart, InterMountain ESD
- Richard Thomas, Linn Benton Lincoln ESD
- Don Wolff, Portland Public Schools

and

- Parasa Chanramy, COSA
- Richard Donovan, OSBA
- Ozzie Rose, OAESD