

K-12 Perspective on Cybersecurity

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The Current Landscape

- 197 districts and 19 ESDs supporting 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**, resulting in disruption and school closures
 - **phishing attacks**, resulting in financial losses and/or theft of personally identifiable information (PII)
 - **information systems breaches**, jeopardizing both the continuity of education and student data privacy

The Efforts So Far

- **Investments** in:
 - security analysts and engineers
 - technical security systems
 - staff training
 - cybersecurity insurance
- **Collaboration** on:
 - board level information security policies
 - regional response teams and security staff training
 - incident response planning and risk management

But...

These efforts have occurred in pockets, not consistently across the state.

The risk is consistent across the state.

“Threat actors, who were already escalating their attacks on K-12 institutions prior to the pandemic, have taken advantage of the increased post-pandemic attack surface and dependence on networked technologies to target K-12 institutions, often with disruptive or damaging results.”

DHS/CISA, January 2023

What Comes Next

- The call to action for school districts and ESDs is to:
 - elevate cybersecurity **risk management** to boards and leaders
 - **modernize** and secure legacy and current technology systems
 - improve **security for our users**—students, educators, families
 - operationalize the **security lifecycle**
- The call to action requires:
 - **short-term grants** to remediate technical debt
 - **longer-term investments** in both people and security technology
 - **workforce development** and regional security partnerships

Our Support for H.B. 2049

- We cannot accomplish this work on our own; cybersecurity defense is better with partners. Therefore, we support H.B. 2049, as it:
 - adds K-12 voices to the Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council
 - 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 school districts, cities, counties, and other public entities
 - invests in cybersecurity workforce development and public awareness

Thank you.

Peers and Partners

- Stuart Long, Cascade Technology Alliance (NWRES D and MES D)
- Cheri Rhinhart and Nick Lapp, InterMountain ESD
- Richard Thomas, Linn Benton Lincoln ESD
- Don Wolff, Portland Public Schools

and

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