

AT A GLANCE

Protecting Our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats

U.S. Department of Homeland
Security and the Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Security Agency



In January 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency published a report highlighting the importance of implementing a strong cybersecurity program in K-12 educational institutions. The report stresses the need for these institutions to be proactive in protecting their networks and systems against cyberthreats, as students, faculty, and staff increasingly rely on technology inside and outside the classroom. The report provides recommendations for educational institutions to enhance their cybersecurity posture, including:

- Developing and implementing a comprehensive cybersecurity program that includes policies, procedures, and technical controls to protect sensitive information and prevent cyber incidents
- Providing regular cybersecurity awareness training to students, teachers, and staff to help them identify and prevent cyberthreats
- Ensuring that all technology systems and software are updated regularly and patched against known vulnerabilities
- Implementing strong authentication methods, such as multi-factor authentication, to protect against unauthorized access to sensitive information
- Collaborating with local law enforcement and other stakeholders to ensure a coordinated response in the event of a cyber incident

The report concludes by emphasizing the critical role that K-12 educational institutions play in shaping the next generation, and the importance of delivering to students a comprehensive education about strong cybersecurity practices.

By implementing the recommendations outlined in the report, educational institutions can better protect their networks and systems and ensure that students are prepared for the digital challenges of the future.

Getting Started with CISA's Recommendations

Investing in the Most Impactful Security Measures

CISA's recommendation to “invest in the most impactful security measures” to build forward is a great first step for addressing security in the K-12 technology world. Fortinet provides the solutions and technology to not only easily meet but exceed five of the six technology investments.

CISA Recommendations	Fortinet Solutions
Implement multi-factor authentication	FortiClient, FortiAuthenticator, FortiToken, FortiCloud
Prioritize patch management	FortiAnalyzer, FortiNAC, FortiEDR
Minimize attacks exposure	FortiGate, FortiClient, FortiEDR, FortiNAC, FortiSwitch, FortiAP
Develop and exercise cyber incident response plans	FortiGuard Incident Response Services
Create a training and awareness campaign at all levels	Free K-12 CSAT service