

Policy to Include Cybersecurity in Standards of Learning

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As human beings are getting more and more advanced as time goes on. Not only is technology getting more advanced but it is also being used by more and more people every year. We have been more connected, and had more opportunities to converse with people we would normally not be able to without technology. It is expanding so much that a new version of internet protocol has to be created to protect us online. This newer internet protocol was created because there were not enough IPv4 addresses. With the amount of technology being used increasing, there will also be people who will try to use it to harm others. Because the amount of technology is increasing, a growing number of people will not know how to safely navigate the internet. These people will then be easier targets for cybercriminals because they do not know what could be potentially harmful to them. The younger generations need to be taught how to navigate the internet and protect themselves against potential threats. A possible solution can be a policy that requires schools to teach cybersecurity classes to help educate.

There were a couple of factors that led to the development of this policy. The first one had to do with personal reasons. We have all seen just how easy it is for someone to have their account stolen on social media websites. A lot of the time it is as easy as just clicking a fake link to the website they think they are going to, and your account information is immediately stolen. The biggest factor is the fact that one of the most common types of cybercrime attacks is also one of the more preventable ones. According to the FBI's *2022 Internet Crime Report*, phishing has been the most common form of cybercrime from 2019 to 2022 (IC3, 2023). This shows that a lot of the people who are becoming victims of cybercrime are people who do not have good cyber hygiene or were not taught what good cyber hygiene looks like. Especially since

computers are not going anywhere anytime soon, it would be very useful if we have more people who know how to safely navigate the internet and can point out if something looks malicious.

The Cybersecurity policy does not necessarily have to be a full-length class, it could even be something like a driver's test. You can attend lectures for a certain amount of time, and then at the end, you can take a test to make sure you have been taking in the information. You can even do something like what the National Security Agency did, “To increase K-12 students' interest and raise their awareness in cybersecurity, the National Security Agency (NSA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have jointly funded more than 300 summer camps to K–12 students and teachers across the nation for the past 3 years [14]”(Jin, Ge, et al, 2018). While a camp might not be the easiest thing to implement, the information that is in the summer camps could be very helpful for people not able to attend the camps.

There are a couple of ways this policy could fit into a broader national policy. The first way is that a cybersecurity education class should be required to graduate high school. It could be a class that would be offered online and over the summer. Many different classes from math to English are required by states and a cybersecurity course could be added to promote online safety. This course could be another elective type class that is required in the standards of learning. “The underlying objective of the NICE is to provide a reference-model for educators to create training, degree, and certification programs, as well as developing the appropriate curriculum”(AlDaajeh, Saleh, et al, 2022). Something like the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, NICE. could be a helpful first step to help educators create curriculums about the internet, what dangers there are, and what you can do to protect yourself.

In conclusion, technology is becoming present in our everyday lives, and despite that, there are still a lot of people who do not know how to safely navigate the internet. I chose this

topic because, cybersecurity is a personal topic to me, and I believe that everyone should know what to click and what to not click on the internet. Students should also have chances to be able to take classes and learn how to be safe on the internet. On a national scale, there should be a set of guidelines for those cyber security teachers to follow. This will make sure that teachers know what their curriculum should be about, and can plan accordingly.

References

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