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### Cybersecurity in schools

Educational institutions are especially susceptible to cyber attacks due to the amount of info held in their systems and the sheer amount and diversity of devices that they hold in their institutions. Although cybersecurity should be extremely important to everyone children should know how to avoid the dangers that they may encounter while being online. Lately many countries have been prioritizing cybersecurity policy making. They have been dealing with it in a holistic manner, so all the new strategies that have been proposed are becoming comprehensive and integrated. In the educational focus on policy making for cybersecurity many countries recognize and prioritize that there is a need for action plans to develop cybersecurity skills due to the need for a stronger cybersecurity workforce and protection of information that is contained in institutions.

In the United States of America on October 8, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the K-12 Cybersecurity Act into law. (Dascoli, 2022) This act was influenced by the movement of school systems across the world to an online based teaching structure due to the coronavirus pandemic that occurred in 2020. "According to the K-12 Cyber Incident Map, in the 2020 school year alone, 408 reported cybersecurity incidents impacted 377 school districts across 40 states." (Dascoli, 2022) If this issue was left unaddressed numerous problems could arise from these attacks such as students and teachers potentially having their personally identifiable

information (PII) made public and it could also lead to school operations being shut down. So, to combat these cyberattacks the government and businesses have aimed to work together to prepare institutions from these attacks and prevent them from happening. They have implemented a multitude of programs for example training, testing and several other tools to guarantee quick detection of any malicious activity, appropriate responses, and to minimize any possible damages.

In Delhi city the police created a special unit for their city's school system to educate women and students about cybercrime and how to prevent it. This program the Delhi City police created is called the 'Go to School Initiative- Protecting Children on the Internet'. Its purpose is to educate women and children on the do's and don't of internet usage. This became a priority due to the prevalence of children being an easily exploitable target because they do not understand many aspects of the internet and the dangers that come with it such as misuse of their social media profiles. And in many cases cyberattacks go unreported due to a majority of children failing to inform others because of fear. “Go to School Initiative- Protecting Children on the Internet' was presented to 290 schools and over 180,000 students took part of this program.” (Digital Learning, 2016)

Protection of school systems from potential cyber-attacks is both a national and international issue that needs to be addressed and consistently updated. Governments in recent years are now prioritizing setting up policies based upon cybersecurity since this world has rapidly become technology dependent and not many governments have been able to properly police the internet since it is constantly and rapidly evolving. Thus, allowing for many of these cyber-crimes to leak into school's systems especially with it become extremely tech

based due to the pandemic in 2020. Creating policies for school systems is not only important so educational institutions can be informed, but they can also have another line of defense to prevent, properly address attacks, and minimize damage.

#### Sources

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