

# Safeguarding Schools for Tomorrow: Cybersecurity for K-12 Educators

## Course Syllabus

This course emphasizes the role educators play in creating a strong cybersecurity culture in the classrooms. Anticipating common cyber threats, implementing security measures, and educating others are all ways that educators play a key role in protecting themselves and their students.

## Learning Objectives

This course is designed for K-12 educators, learning specialists, paraprofessionals, and school support staff.

In this course, participants will:

- Learn practical strategies for identifying and responding to common school cyber threats
- Understand basic cybersecurity measures to safeguard devices, communication tools, and critical data
- Learn how to advocate for cybersecurity by asking questions of their school's IT leadership team
- Become aware of cybersecurity education opportunities for themselves, their students, and their school

## Course Format

This self-paced course consists of five modules. It is designed to take approximately 90-120 minutes to complete, with additional time allotted for the development of a personalized action plan.



## Course Overview

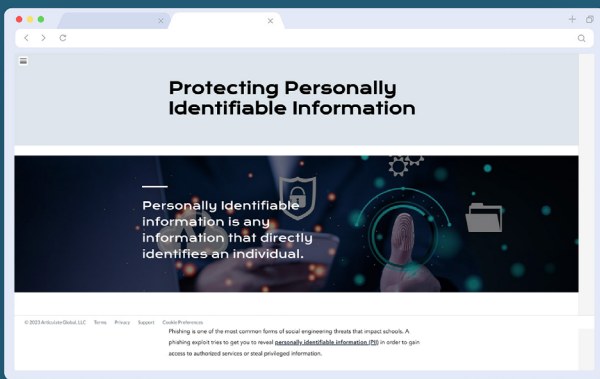
### Module 1: Introduction

In this module, K-12 educators are introduced to today's current cybersecurity landscape through visual data and narrative scenarios. They take some time to explore the Protecting Our Future report and become familiar with its key findings. Then, they have an opportunity to role-play a scenario to self-assess their knowledge and readiness to implement cybersecurity measures in their classrooms. With these findings, they'll set personal goals to guide their journey through the course.

**Lesson 1:** Rising Threats and Cybersecurity Challenges

**Lesson 2:** K-12 Cybersecurity Recommendations

**Lesson 3:** Course Overview



## Module 2: Protect Yourself

In this module, educators dive deeper into cybersecurity measures designed to protect personally identifiable information and maintain online privacy on classroom devices. As they learn about each key recommendation, they'll identify actionable steps they can take to establish a cybersecurity culture of awareness and preparedness. They'll also discover Microsoft solutions and other resources that can support their goals along the way.

**Lesson 1:** Using Passwords and Identity Authentication

**Lesson 2:** Protecting Personally Identifiable Information

**Lesson 3:** Maintaining Online Privacy

## Module 3: Strengthen Defenses

This module introduces educators to key actionable steps as part of a comprehensive plan to strengthen the security and safety of classroom devices and technology systems. They'll discover steps they can take to address common security threats and mitigate the risks of malware and ransomware attacks. They'll also take time to investigate their school's incident response plan and ensure they know what to do if an incident occurs.

**Lesson 1:** Securing Devices

**Lesson 2:** Creating Backups

**Lesson 3:** Having a Response Plan

## Module 4: Educate Others

In this module, educators take what they've learned throughout the course and plan for how they will share the information with their students. With the support of engaging student resources, such as Minecraft EDU worlds, they'll plan for ways to incorporate cyber awareness and safety into their curriculum. They'll also discover ways to collaborate with other educators at both the local and national levels and learn how to find resources within their own state agencies.

**Lesson 1:** Your Role as an Educator

**Lesson 2:** Teaching Elementary School Students about Cybersecurity

**Lesson 3:** Teaching Middle School Students about Cybersecurity

**Lesson 4:** Teaching High School Students about Cybersecurity

**Lesson 5:** Information Sharing and Collaboration

## Module 5: Make Plans

This final module brings everything together and focuses on guiding educators to make their own actionable plan for addressing cybersecurity threats within their own classrooms. They'll identify existing tools they can leverage to meet their goals and discover solutions to support the personal goals they established at the start of the course.

**Lesson 1:** Setting Up for Success

**Lesson 2:** Course Wrap-Up