K-12 BLUEPRINT

Course Syllabus | Sponsored by Microsoft®

September 2023 | Prepared by Clarity Innovations, Inc.

Protecting Our Future:

Cybersecurity for K-12 Leaders

Course Syllabus

Advanced networking technologies have increasingly been adopted by K-12 organizations in order to improve efficiency and facilitate learning. However, this progress also comes with the potential for increased cybersecurity risks.

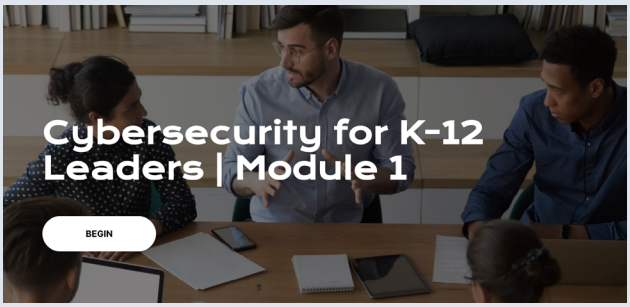
This course emphasizes the importance of establishing a strong cybersecurity presence while building a schoolwide culture of cyber awareness, vigilance, and preparedness. Following the recent key findings and recommendations of the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), K-12 leaders will gain the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to develop and implement effective cybersecurity training for staff and students.

Learning Objectives

This course is designed for K-12 organization leaders, including superintendents, and district and school administrators.

In this course, participants will:

- Learn how to advocate for the importance of cybersecurity measures in K-12 organizations
- Understand key findings and recommendations from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
- Analyze and evaluate current cybersecurity practices to identify areas of strength and need
- Develop strategies and actionable steps to build a strong cybersecurity culture within a K-12 organization



Course Format

This self-paced course consists of five modules. It is designed to take approximately 90-120 minutes (about 2 hours) to complete, with additional time allotted for the development of a personalized action plan.

Course Overview

Module 1: Introduction

In this module, K-12 leaders 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, leaders answer a series of interactive questions to self-assess their organization's knowledge and readiness to implement cybersecurity measures. They use their findings to place themselves on the Cybersecurity Roadmap—a visual map with key recommendations and "checkpoints" along the way that will guide their journey through the course.

Lesson 1: The Current Landscape of K-12 Cybersecurity

Lesson 2: Heightening K-12 Cybersecurity Awareness

Lesson 3: Your Cybersecurity Roadmap

Lesson 4: Next Steps

Module 2: Critical Checkpoint One

In this module, leaders dive deeper into CISA Key Finding 1: With finite resources, K-12 institutions can take a small number of steps to significantly reduce cybersecurity risks. As they learn about each one of these recommendations, they'll identify actionable steps they can take for establishing a cybersecurity culture and implementing change.

Lesson 1: Implementing Multi-Factor Authentication

Lesson 2: Identifying and Prioritizing Known Security Flaws

Lesson 3: Performing and Testing Backups

Lesson 4: Minimizing Exposure to Common Attacks

Lesson 5: Developing a Cyber Incident Response Plan

Lesson 6: Creating a Training and Awareness Campaign

Lesson 7: Check for Understanding

Module 3: Critical Checkpoint Two

This module introduces actionable steps as part of the next level of cybersecurity risk mitigation. It focuses on CISA Key Finding 2: Many school districts struggle with insufficient IT resources and cybersecurity capacity. Leaders will discover steps they can take to address resource constraints, including free and low-cost services and Microsoft solutions. They'll also take the next step in prioritizing CPG alignment and developing a personalized Cybersecurity Plan.

Lesson 1: Prioritizing CPG Alignment

Lesson 2: Developing a Long-Term Cybersecurity Plan

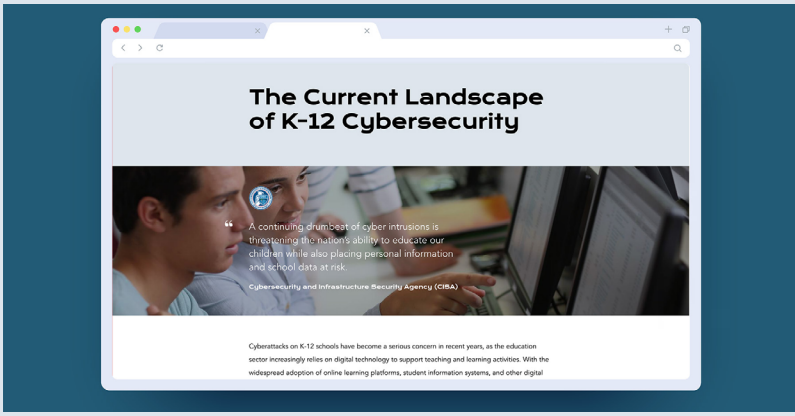
Lesson 3: Leveraging State and Local Grants

Lesson 4: Utilizing Free and Low-Cost Services

Lesson 5: Asking More of Technology Providers

Lesson 6: Minimizing the Burden of On-Prem Security

Lesson 7: Check for Understanding



Module 4: Critical Checkpoint Three

In this module, leaders discover a growing network for support, collaboration, and information sharing around cybersecurity in K-12 education. This focuses on CISA Key Finding 3: No K-12 entity can single handedly identify and prioritize emerging threats, vulnerabilities, and risks. They'll discover ways to collaborate at both the local and national levels and learn how to find their own state agencies and associations.

Lesson 1: Focusing on Collaboration and Information Sharing

Lesson 2: Partnering to Build a Cybersecurity Network

Lesson 3: Check for Understanding

Module 5: Getting from Here to There

This final module brings everything together and focuses on guiding leaders to make their own actionable plan for addressing cybersecurity risks and moving further along the Cybersecurity Roadmap. They'll identify existing tools they can leverage to meet their goals and discover Microsoft solutions through an interactive problem-solution matrix. They'll also gain access to additional resources they can use to support their journey after completing the course.

Lesson 1: Setting Up for Success

Lesson 2: Course Wrap Up