State of South Dakota

K-12 Cybersecurity Risk Assessment

The Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT) strives to partner and collaborate with clients in support of their mission through innovative information technology solutions, systems, and consulting. The evolution of the Digital Dakota Network (DDN) started with the Wiring the Schools project in 1996, followed by the Connecting the Schools program in 2000, and the Connections 1:1 Initiative in 2006 continuing with multiple technology advancements through the recent years. The DDN includes e-mail, network connectivity, Internet services, web hosting, distance learning, cybersecurity, application hosting, on-site support, network management, training and many more technology services. BIT, the Department of Education (DOE), and the K-12 Data Center at Dakota State University have a long and successful history of partnering with K-12 schools for technology services.

In the face of increasingly common cyber-attack vectors, including denial of service attacks, ransomware infections, and data breaches, BIT and the DOE are partnering to expand the DDN services to include Cybersecurity Risk Assessments. The goal is to ensure your school employs the technology, policies and best practices required for basic cyber hygiene.

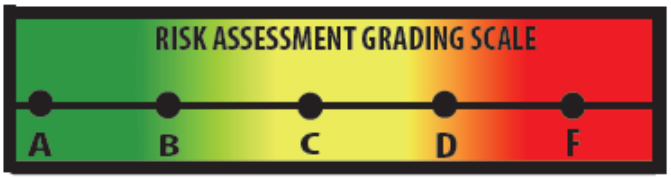
The assessment creates an objective snapshot of your information technology environment. An evaluation of your internal and external facing devices will determine a cybersecurity baseline. Rooted in an internationally recognized methodology, our infrastructure and policy assessment aim to ensure critical defensive measures are present and identify any gaps. Following the assessment, you will receive a summary that outlines improvements tailored to the needs of your district. BIT will provide hands-on assistance as needed but understand our resources are also limited. Solutions going forward may include a combination of school personnel, BIT staff and the private sector.

To get started, complete the self-assessment on the Members Site (members.k12.sd.us). It requires knowledge of your information technology infrastructure and policy, and we encourage you to complete this survey with your stakeholders, such as superintendents, principals, and/or business managers.

Specific findings and security exposures are confidential information and will not be shared. BIT will not disclose confidential information to anybody not involved with the services without prior consent from the school.

Please feel free to contact the K-12 Help Desk at help@k12.sd.us or (605) 937-6151 with any questions, concerns, comments, or to register for an assessment.

K-12 CYBERSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT



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