



Protect Your Staff and Students

How to keep your small school secure from cyberattacks

Hackers don't care how small your school is

When it comes to cyberattacks, hackers don't care how big your school or college is—they care how weak your security is. Ransomware attacks can be particularly devastating. The average cost to recover from a ransomware attack has risen to more than \$84,000.¹ And, it's estimated that an organization will fall victim to ransomware every 11 seconds by 2021.²

Cybercrime is a big problem, and cyber-attacks get more sophisticated all the time. In fact, one in three parents and teachers have reported higher concerns about student privacy during the move to distance learning in 2020.³

But keeping ahead of the bad guys is exhausting, and finding the right solutions to protect your students, teachers, administrators, devices, and network can get complicated. Small schools need complete, layered security solutions, because no one technology alone can eliminate cybercrime such as ransomware attacks.

You need protection on multiple fronts

To defend against cyber-attacks, it's important to look at the various points of entry and spread to make sure your school is protected. To defend your small school, you need protection at every stage of the chain. You have multiple points of entry and spread to protect. The good news is that Cisco® Secure solutions are cloud-based and work together seamlessly, so your teachers and students can teach and learn safely from any device, at any time, from any location.



The average cost to recover from a ransomware attack is **\$84,000¹**



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People

Ensure that the people who access your systems are who they say they are. Cisco Secure Access by Duo helps protect sensitive data by verifying the identity of users, devices, and applications with secure two-factor authentication.



Devices

People access your network in multiple ways. If you have enabled distance or hybrid learning, they may be connecting from a classroom, a laptop, a tablet, or a mobile device. If malware gets on any user's device, it can then spread through your network. Cisco Secure Endpoint (formerly AMP for Endpoints) detects and blocks malware and viruses across student and faculty devices. You need advanced malware protection for all of your devices and critical servers.



Email

Every day people click malicious links or open harmful email attachments that download ransomware. Eighty percent of malware infections are from ransomware attacks, and cloud-based email like Office 365 isn't immune from hacking either.⁴ Protect email to help ensure that devices can't spread ransomware across your network to critical systems. Cisco Secure Email puts our security inside Microsoft's cloud, so it's as close as possible to the mailbox.



The network

Once malware finds a way in, it spreads across your network and encrypts files or takes down critical systems. The internet and networks don't work without the DNS to route data, and neither does most ransomware. Cisco Umbrella® provides the first line of defense against threats to protect users everywhere with flexible, fast, and effective cloud-delivered security. And our Cisco Meraki® MX appliances offer simple cloud management with security features such as firewalling, content filtering, intrusion detection, and more.



Security backed by intelligence

Cisco has invested heavily in developing our security tools—and small schools and colleges can benefit from powerful security intelligence technology and machine learning. Cisco Talos® provides threat intelligence for Cisco products that detect, analyze, and protect against both known and emerging threats. With security delivered from the cloud, there's no hardware to install and no manual software updates. You save time, reduce your overhead, and keep your school or college safe.

Get started today

Cisco offers a complete range of security products. Our threat intelligence informs our systems about known malware, our user verification and email security blocks entry to your network, and our communication and network security keeps malware from spreading. Let us help you secure your school, so you can focus on what matters most—educating the next generation.

1. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/leemathews/2020/01/26/average-cost-to-recover-from-ransomware-skyrockets-to-over-84000/#6c93c66813a2>

2. <https://cybersecurityventures.com/cybercrime-damages-6-trillion-by-2021/>

3. <https://cdt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CDT-student-privacy-parents-teachers-students-research-report.pdf>

4. <https://www.absolute.com/go/reports/distance-learning-impact-education-it/>

For more information on Cisco Security Solutions for your school, please contact us today.