STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent

SUBJECT: Taking Proactive Measures to Protect Schools Against Cyber Threats - MEMO #COVID-19-173

Cyber threats have been on the rise over the past few years, and the state is seeing an increase in cyberattacks on Michigan schools. Cyber threats can drain time and money from instruction. By taking proactive measures, districts can mitigate risk and exposure. Ensuring that districts are cyber secure is an ongoing process that must be prioritized by administrators and addressed by every employee. The following resources can help districts protect against cyber threats:

1. [Essential Cybersecurity Practices for K-12](#) – Available through the Michigan Educational Technology Leaders (METL), this resource highlights what districts need to know about basic controls, foundational controls, and organizational controls.

2. [MISecure Quick Self-Audit](#) – A companion to METL's Essential Cybersecurity Practices for K-12, this document includes reflective prompts about a district's current cybersecurity practices.

3. [Cybersecurity for Educators](#) – This course, available through EduPaths, covers what every school employee should know about cybersecurity and helps staff to identify cybersecurity weaknesses, vulnerabilities, and risks.

4. [Michigan Cyber Partners](#) – A collaboration between divisions at the state of Michigan and local public entities across Michigan to secure the digital ecosystem by strengthening, improving, and promoting cybersecurity resources and best practices. Districts can join the Michigan Cyber Partners, report cyber incidents, and access additional resources.

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5. [Michigan State Police Michigan Cyber Command Center (MC3)](#) – The MC3 is responsible for the coordination of combined efforts of cyber emergency response during critical cyber incidents. Contact the MC3 for any cyber incident at mc3@michigan.gov or 877-MI-CYBER.

6. [K-12 Computer Science (CS) Standards](#) and the [Michigan Integrated Technology Competencies for Students](#) (MITECS) - Students play a key role in ensuring schools are safe. Michigan's K-12 CS Standards and the MITECS include cybersecurity as components of a comprehensive computer science and digital literacy curriculum.

As more virtual and hybrid learning models are utilized by districts, and the number of connected devices grows due to efforts to close the digital divide, cybersecurity is increasingly critical. It is important that cybersecurity protection, education, and workforce development are ongoing priorities. The State of Michigan recently developed *Michigan Secure*, a cybersecurity application for download on all devices. See this [letter](#) for more information on how the application protects all Michigan residents against cyber threats. The Michigan Department of Education is committed to continue collaborative efforts to support districts in being cyber secure by helping administrators, staff, and our partners prioritize the cybersecurity process.

Questions about these resources can be directed to the educational technology unit of the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Systems, Evaluation, and Technology at MDE-Edtech@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
     Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors