

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1917

AN ACT

To establish a K–12 education cybersecurity initiative, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “K–12 Cybersecurity
3 Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) K–12 educational institutions across the
7 United States are facing cyber attacks.

8 (2) Cyber attacks place the information systems
9 of K–12 educational institutions at risk of possible
10 disclosure of sensitive student and employee infor-
11 mation, including—

12 (A) grades and information on scholastic
13 development;

14 (B) medical records;

15 (C) family records; and

16 (D) personally identifiable information.

17 (3) Providing K–12 educational institutions
18 with resources to aid cybersecurity efforts will help
19 K–12 educational institutions prevent, detect, and
20 respond to cyber events.

21 **SEC. 3. K–12 EDUCATION CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE.**

22 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

23 (1) **CYBERSECURITY RISK.**—The term “cyberse-
24 curity risk” has the meaning given the term in sec-
25 tion 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
26 U.S.C. 659).

1 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Se-
3 curity.

4 (3) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term “infor-
5 mation system” has the meaning given the term in
6 section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

7 (4) K-12 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The
8 term “K-12 educational institution” means an ele-
9 mentary school or a secondary school, as those terms
10 are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and
11 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 (b) STUDY.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
14 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director,
15 in accordance with subsection (g)(1), shall conduct
16 a study on the specific cybersecurity risks facing K-
17 12 educational institutions that—

18 (A) analyzes how identified cybersecurity
19 risks specifically impact K-12 educational insti-
20 tutions;

21 (B) includes an evaluation of the chal-
22 lenges K-12 educational institutions face in—

23 (i) securing—

1 (I) information systems owned,
2 leased, or relied upon by K–12 edu-
3 cational institutions; and

4 (II) sensitive student and em-
5 ployee records; and

6 (ii) implementing cybersecurity proto-
7 cols;

8 (C) identifies cybersecurity challenges re-
9 lating to remote learning; and

10 (D) evaluates the most accessible ways to
11 communicate cybersecurity recommendations
12 and tools.

13 (2) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than
14 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
15 Director shall provide a Congressional briefing on
16 the study conducted under paragraph (1).

17 (c) CYBERSECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
18 than 60 days after the completion of the study required
19 under subsection (b)(1), the Director, in accordance with
20 subsection (g)(1), shall develop recommendations that in-
21 clude cybersecurity guidelines designed to assist K–12
22 educational institutions in facing the cybersecurity risks
23 described in subsection (b)(1), using the findings of the
24 study.

1 (d) ONLINE TRAINING TOOLKIT.—Not later than
2 120 days after the completion of the development of the
3 recommendations required under subsection (c), the Direc-
4 tor shall develop an online training toolkit designed for
5 officials at K–12 educational institutions to—

6 (1) educate the officials about the cybersecurity
7 recommendations developed under subsection (c);
8 and

9 (2) provide strategies for the officials to imple-
10 ment the recommendations developed under sub-
11 section (c).

12 (e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make
13 available on the website of the Department of Homeland
14 Security with other information relating to school safety
15 the following:

16 (1) The findings of the study conducted under
17 subsection (b)(1).

18 (2) The cybersecurity recommendations devel-
19 oped under subsection (c).

20 (3) The online training toolkit developed under
21 subsection (d).

22 (f) VOLUNTARY USE.—The use of the cybersecurity
23 recommendations developed under (c) by K–12 edu-
24 cational institutions shall be voluntary.

25 (g) CONSULTATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the course of the conduc-
 2 tion of the study required under subsection (b)(1)
 3 and the development of the recommendations re-
 4 quired under subsection (c), the Director shall con-
 5 sult with individuals and entities focused on cyberse-
 6 curity and education, as appropriate, including—

7 (A) teachers;

8 (B) school administrators;

9 (C) Federal agencies;

10 (D) non-Federal cybersecurity entities with
 11 experience in education issues; and

12 (E) private sector organizations.

13 (2) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal
 14 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C App.) shall not
 15 apply to any consultation under paragraph (1).

Passed the Senate August 9, 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

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