



The [Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\)](#) is honored to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams through the [Association of Educational Service Agencies](#) in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations.

### **Cybersecurity – A Continuing Challenge**

The recently released CoSN 2024 State of EdTech Leadership Report (<https://www.cosn.org/edtech-topics/state-of-edtech-leadership/>) identified Cybersecurity as one of the five “Key Findings” regarding challenges facing school districts today. Since October is designated as national Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we are pleased to share a variety of free CoSN resources to assist school leaders in addressing the challenges around cybersecurity in school district settings.

### **CoSN's NIST Cybersecurity Framework Resources Alignment for K-12**

CoSN’s Cybersecurity Committee has incorporated the cybersecurity standards produced by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) into CoSN's NIST Cybersecurity Framework Resource Alignment for K-12. This resource provides school leaders with information and strategies to strengthen their cyber initiatives and protect their districts against ever-changing digital threats. You are invited to review the five standards and their application within a K-12 environment at <https://www.cosn.org/edtech-topics/cybersecurity/cosns-nist-cybersecurity-framework-resources-alignment-for-k-12/>.

### **Building A Learning Continuity Plan**

School districts need to map out a strategy for dealing with disasters that can occur and interrupt multiple aspects of school functionality, including cyber-attacks, before those disruptions occur. The link below provides you with access to read and download, “*Building your Learning Continuity Plan or Business Continuity Plan*”, which focuses on the information technology components needed to support a district’s overall disaster recovery plan.

<https://www.cosn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Building-your-Learning-Continuity-Plan-or-Business-Continuity-Plan-.pdf>

### **CoSN K-12 Community Vendor Assessment Tool**

Specially developed for K-12 districts and education service groups, the CoSN K-12 Community Vendor Assessment Tool (K-12CVAT) is provided to assist school leaders in measuring the risks associated with purchases from vendors. Prior to committing to a purchase, school leaders are advised to ask the vendor to complete a K-12CVAT assessment to confirm that the vendor has the necessary information, data and cybersecurity policies needed to protect a school system’s information and their stakeholders Personal Identifiable Information (PII). K-12 schools and districts, as well as K-12 solution providers, can learn more about the CoSN K-12 Community Vendor Assessment Tool and access the link to download the K-12CAVT for free at this URL link: <https://www.cosn.org/tools-and-resources/resource/k-12cvat/>.

### **CoSN/AASA EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Series**

CoSN, AASA, and edWeb.net co-host an online edLeader Panel broadcast series, sponsored by ClassLink, to help superintendents, district and school leaders and teachers connect and collaborate. Participants can join the live event or view recordings and podcast versions starting a day or two after the live broadcast.

The October 14, 2024 (5:00 pm Eastern Time) edLeader Panel broadcast is titled “*Cybersecurity in School District Settings: A District Leadership Approach*”. Three leading-edge superintendents share the policies and

practices they implement to successfully manage cybersecurity in their school settings. They will also discuss how school leaders can adapt to the ever-evolving changes in cybersecurity, including such things as AI. You are invited to learn more and register for free at <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20241014/>.

If you missed the September 9, 2024, broadcast on *Leading Education Technology Innovations: Current Challenges and Solutions*, you are welcome to sign up for free to view the recording and/or listen to the podcast at <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20240909/>.

### **CoSN Membership:**

Join other Educational Service Agencies by taking advantage of **CoSN's Bulk Membership Program** today! At CoSN, we believe in fostering a community where every school district, regardless of size, can thrive and excel in the digital age.

### **Here's what we offer:**

- **10% Discount for Medium, Large, and Mega Large Districts:** We understand the challenges faced by districts with larger student populations. That's why we're thrilled to offer a generous 10% discount on membership dues for districts classified as Medium, Large, and Mega Large. Dive into a wealth of resources, tools, and networking opportunities at a fraction of the cost.
- **Complimentary Membership for Small Districts:** We're committed to leveling the playing field for all districts, including those with smaller enrollments. With our Bulk Membership Program, school districts with fewer than 2,500 students receive complimentary membership. Yes, you read that right—access our resources and connect with industry experts without spending a dime on membership dues!

### **Why CoSN?**

- **Access Unparalleled Resources and Networking:** Gain exclusive access to cutting-edge insights, best practices, and research-driven solutions tailored to the unique needs of educational leaders. Forge invaluable connections with peers, industry experts, and thought leaders, propelling your district towards digital excellence.
- **Stay Ahead of the Curve:** In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, staying ahead of the curve is non-negotiable. CoSN equips you with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to navigate the complexities of digital learning, ensuring your district remains at the forefront of innovation.

**If you are interested in receiving a quote for your districts, please contact Me'Shell Sheffield at [msheffield@cosn.org](mailto:msheffield@cosn.org).**