

IKON INSIGHTS

TECHNOLOGY NEWS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of IKON EduTech Group.

IKON is a premium IT consulting company focused on providing K-12 schools with customized technology solutions and personalized support.

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(212)334.6481

ON-DEMAND WEBINAR MINERVA CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

Your Secret Weapon for Passing the NYSED Data Security Review and Ed Law 2-D Compliance

Join IKON and V3 Cybersecurity on our on-demand webinar where we'll tackle the major cybersecurity issues that schools currently face and demonstrate how the Minerva EDU platform can transform your security plans. This webinar is perfect for anyone wanting to strengthen their school's cybersecurity while keeping costs down and meeting NYSED Data Security Reviews and NYS Ed Law 2-D requirements.

Here's what we'll cover:

1. Comprehensive Cybersecurity Insight
2. Strategic Compliance Guidance
3. Hands-On Demonstration
4. Expert-Led Solutions
5. Cost-Effective Approaches

Watch now, and take a big step towards better cybersecurity!



8 KEY TECHNOLOGY GRANTS EVERY CHARTER AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SHOULD KNOW

Navigating the complex landscape of technology funding is crucial for enhancing educational outcomes. With technology playing an integral role in modern education, securing the right grants can transform your school's learning environment. Here, we'll guide you through various funding sources that can empower your school with the latest technological advancements.

1. LEARNING TECHNOLOGY GRANT (LTG)

The Learning Technology Grant program focuses on improving student achievement and teacher effectiveness by integrating technology into teaching and learning processes. Eligible schools must demonstrate how they will use technology to promote innovative teaching practices and enhance student engagement. The grant encourages projects that support professional development, create digital content, and foster collaborative learning environments.

2. SMART SCHOOL BOND ACT

The Smart School Bond Act provides significant funding for schools to invest in educational technology and infrastructure. This includes purchasing interactive whiteboards, upgrading broadband connectivity, and building modern learning spaces. Schools need to submit a Smart Schools Investment Plan outlining how they will use these funds to improve educational services and student outcomes.

3. E-RATE PROGRAM

The E-rate program, administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company, offers discounts to assist schools and libraries in obtaining affordable telecommunications and internet access. It covers a portion of the costs for broadband connectivity, network equipment, and maintenance services. Schools must comply with the program's competitive bidding process and prioritize services based on their specific needs.

4. RESOURCE TO FUNDING FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

This comprehensive resource provides a list of funding opportunities specifically for educational technology initiatives. It includes grants, awards, and other financial aids available at both state and federal levels. School leaders can find tailored information to support their technology integration projects, from purchasing devices to implementing digital literacy programs.

5. EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) TITLE IV, PART A

ESSA Title IV, Part A aims to support schools in providing a well-rounded education, including integrating technology to improve teaching and learning. The funds can be used for a variety of purposes such as developing STEM programs, supporting digital literacy, and enhancing instructional technology. Schools must show how these funds will help meet their academic goals and improve student outcomes.

6. CHARTER SCHOOL GROWTH FUND

The Charter School Growth Fund offers scale grants to high-performing charter schools to expand their reach and impact. While these grants primarily focus on operational growth, they can also support the enhancement of technology infrastructure and digital learning tools. Charter schools applying for this fund should demonstrate successful academic results and a clear plan for scaling their successful models.

7. COPS GRANT FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

The COPS grant is designed to improve security at schools through funding for various safety measures, including technology-based solutions. Schools can use these funds to install surveillance cameras, emergency communication systems, and other security technologies. By enhancing physical security, schools can create a safer learning environment for students and staff.

8. NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides funding to nonprofit organizations, including private schools, to bolster their security measures against potential terrorist attacks. This includes upgrading physical security equipment, implementing surveillance systems, and conducting safety training. Schools eligible for this program must demonstrate a risk of terrorist threats and outline how the grant will improve their security posture.

For links and more info, visit:



IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR NEW YORK SCHOOLS: NYSED COMPREHENSIVE DATA SECURITY REVIEWS

NYSED Information Security Office is implementing a data security review with LEAs beginning in the first quarter of 2024. NYSED has identified several foundational focus areas for LEAs to implement working towards a stronger data security posture. The areas identified below align with elements of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) and feature some of the key tactics, activities, and guidelines (also known as controls) suggested by NIST to address the review areas NYSED will focus on.

Below is a reference guide for the areas we will review with you and your team, within this guide there is also the NIST CSF subcategory reference.

POLICIES	CONTROLS	THIRD-PARTY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable Use Disaster Recovery Incident Response Incident Response Plan Password Privacy and Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Control (i.e., Physical and Electronically) MFA Password Complexity Patch Management Users On/Off Boarding Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of Data Shared How Data is Shared Where Data is Stored Encryption in Transit/Stored Access Controls on Data Sets Third-Party Environment Configurations

LEGEND:

CSF Subcategory: These are subcategories outlined in the NIST CSF* that the LEA can use as a resource to address any areas they are deficient in or wish to improve their posture in the category.

Primary/Applicable Subcategory Controls: These are subcategories are outlined in the [NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5](#) that LEAs can use as a resource.

*Note: CSF 1.1 used for this model

1. REVIEW PASSWORD MANAGEMENT.

a. CSF Subcategory(s): PR.AC-1, PR.AC-6, PR.AC-7

b. PRIMARY/APPLICABLE Subcategory Controls: IA-1, IA-2, IA-5

2. REVIEW HOW DATA IS SHARED WITH THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS.

a. CSF Subcategory: ID.SC-3 PRIMARY/APPLICABLE Subcategory Controls: SA-4, SA-9, SR-2, SR-3

Ed Law 2-d Requirements, Part 121:

b. 121.2: AC-21, AT-3(5), AU-2, PT-2, PT-3, PM-5(1), SA-8(33), SI-12(1)

c. 121.3: PM-20, PT-5,

3. DISCUSS MFA IMPLEMENTATION.

a. CSF Subcategory: PR.AC-1, PR.AC-7

b. PRIMARY/APPLICABLE Subcategory Controls: AC-14, IA-1, IA-2

4. REVIEW POLICY FOR ONBOARDING AND OFFBOARDING ACCOUNTS.

a. CSF Subcategory: PR.AC-1, PR.AC-4

b. PRIMARY/APPLICABLE Subcategory Controls: AC-1, AC-2, AC-5, AC-6, IA-1, IA-2, IA-5

5. REVIEW CURRENT POLICIES, SUCH AS: ACCEPTABLE USE, PASSWORD, INCIDENT RESPONSE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND PRIVACY AND SECURITY.

a. CSF Subcategory: ID.GV-1, ID.GV-3

b. PRIMARY/APPLICABLE Subcategory Controls: AC-1, AT-1, AU-1, CA-1, CM-1, CP-1, IA-1, IR-1, MA-1, MP-1, PE-1, PL-1, PM-1, PS-1, PT-1, RA-1, SA-1, SC-1, SI-1, SR-1

6. DISCUSS ASSET INVENTORY AND THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY CRITICAL ASSETS.

a. CSF Subcategory: ID.AM-1, ID.AM-2, ID.AM-3, ID.AM-4, ID.AM-5

b. PRIMARY/APPLICABLE Subcategory Controls: CA-3, CM-8, CP-2, PM-5, RA-2, RA-9

HOW K-12 SCHOOLS CAN FUND SAFETY UPGRADES

In today's world, enhancing physical security in schools is not just a priority—it's a necessity. Whether responding to new laws like Alyssa's Law or upgrading old, ineffective technology, schools face a big challenge: finding the funds for these important safety updates. At IKON Edutech Group, we specialize in helping K-12 schools integrate advanced safety solutions effectively and affordably.

PREPARING FOR PHYSICAL SECURITY UPGRADES

Before you start looking for funding, you need to know exactly what your school needs. Conduct a detailed review of your current security systems. Identify any weak spots, such as old analog cameras or inadequate emergency communication systems. Knowing exactly what you need helps you make a stronger case when you apply for grants.

Also, involve key stakeholders like teachers, parents, and local police early on. Their input can not only improve your planning but also strengthen your grant applications by showing a united commitment to student safety.

The following table lists various federal funding sources your school can leverage to fund safety initiatives:

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)	The SVPP provides funds to help schools buy equipment and technology to prevent violent incidents. Use this funding to update your surveillance and access control systems for real-time monitoring and quicker responses.
STOP School Violence Program	This program supports projects that develop and use proven strategies to enhance school safety. The funds cover training, technology, and other activities aimed at preventing violence.
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds	These funds are usually for urgent needs like pandemic responses but can also be used for safety improvements. They offer flexible support for wide-ranging security upgrades.
Stronger Connections Grant Program	Focused on fostering safer and more supportive learning environments, this grant helps schools install advanced security technologies. These systems can detect and react to various threats, enhancing overall safety.
Non-Profit Security Grant Program	Provides funding support for facility hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities to nonprofit organizations (including private schools) that are at high risk of terrorist attack.

With the right preparation, access to state and federal funds, and support from experts like IKON Edutech Group, your school can effectively manage the financial and technical aspects of security upgrades. Let's work together to not only secure your school but also ensure it's a place where students and staff feel safe and supported.

Ready to start? Let's make it happen, together.
Visit us online at: <https://ikonbusinessgroup.com>

