

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Andy Ogles
Chairman
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Delia Ramirez
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Ogles and Ranking Member Ramirez:

On behalf of the undersigned national education organizations, we write in advance of the Subcommittee's hearing titled "State and Local Cybersecurity: Escalating Threats, Federal Partnership, and the Resilience of America's Communities" to express our strong support for continuing and strengthening federal programs that secure school and library district networks from cyberattacks and protect student, library patrons and personnel data.

K–12 schools and libraries face increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, including ransomware attacks, phishing campaigns, and data breaches that can disrupt instruction, compromise sensitive student and employee information, and undermine public trust. Cyber incidents can also interrupt instructional delivery, payroll systems, transportation operations, communications, and access to essential student services, making cybersecurity readiness a core component of educational continuity and community resilience. These threats are particularly acute for smaller and rural districts that often lack dedicated cybersecurity personnel and resources. According to CoSN's newly released *U.S. State of EdTech 2026* report, cybersecurity remains the top technology priority for school district technology leaders nationwide, yet 65% report a lack of dedicated cybersecurity funding and staffing as a primary barrier to protecting school systems.

We strongly support the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) and appreciate Congress's recognition that cybersecurity is a shared national responsibility requiring strong federal, state, and local collaboration. As the Committee examines the future of federal cybersecurity partnerships, we also encourage continued support for programs and initiatives that specifically assist schools and libraries.

In particular, we urge continued support for the Federal Communications Commission's Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program, which is helping participating schools and libraries assess and strengthen cybersecurity protections for broadband networks and connected learning environments. Secure connectivity is essential to teaching, learning, school operations,

and student safety. The pilot will undoubtedly yield important information to guide federal, state, and local decision making about how to address the cyberthreat facing schools and libraries, and that a larger, sustained investment is needed to protect the nation's schools and libraries.

We also encourage continued support for the important education facing work of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), including the agency's School Safety Task Force and its cybersecurity guidance and technical assistance resources tailored to K-12 education. CISA's voluntary guidance documents, best practices, and training materials provide practical support for school leaders working to manage cyber risk while maintaining safe and effective learning environments.

Federal coordination and technical assistance remain essential because schools and libraries are increasingly targeted as part of broader attacks on public infrastructure and community services. Continued investment in cybersecurity preparedness, technical assistance, and school and library-focused cybersecurity resources will help ensure that community members, students, educators, and families can rely on secure and resilient educational systems.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues and for the opportunity to submit this statement for the hearing record.

Sincerely,

Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

American Federation of School Administrators

American Library Association

Association of Educational Service Agencies

Association of School Business Officials International
(ASBO)

Consortium of State School Boards Associations
(COSSBA)

National Association for Pupil Transportation

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Catholic Educational Association

National Education Association

National Rural Education Association

National School Boards Association

Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition
(SHLB)

State Educational Technology Directors Association
(SETDA)