

# 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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## CYBERSECURITY PILOT PROGRAM UNLOCK \$200M IN FUNDING FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Schools and libraries have increasingly become prime targets for cybersecurity attacks. Malicious actors seek to steal personal information, compromise online accounts, and disrupt critical networks that provide essential broadband connectivity. To combat these threats, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program.

### WHAT IS THE SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES CYBERSECURITY PILOT PROGRAM?

The three-year Pilot Program, administered by the *Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)* with oversight from the FCC, aims to gather data on how universal service funds can support the cybersecurity needs of schools and libraries. The program allocates up to \$200 million to eligible schools and libraries to cover the costs of essential cybersecurity services and equipment.

### HOW IKON EDUTECH GROUP CAN HELP

IKON Edutech Group is here to support you through the application process by offering a free Cybersecurity Audit to help you identify your needs and strengthen your application.

Act Now!



# UNDERSTANDING ALYSSA'S LAW: A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARDS SCHOOL SAFETY

## WHAT IS ALYSSA'S LAW?

Alyssa's Law is a pivotal piece of legislation mandating that public schools install silent panic alarms to notify law enforcement directly in emergencies. Named after Alyssa Alhadeff, a victim of the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, this law honors her memory and aims to prevent future tragedies. The Parkland shooting resulted in the loss of 17 lives and critically injured 17 others, underscoring the urgent need for faster emergency response in schools.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ALYSSA'S LAW

In emergencies, every second counts. The primary goal of Alyssa's Law is to enhance the response time of law enforcement and emergency services, potentially saving lives. By setting stringent standards for school safety protocols, this legislation ensures that schools are better prepared to handle life-threatening situations swiftly and effectively.

## ALYSSA'S LAW IN NEW YORK STATE

On June 23, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul signed Alyssa's Law (S.7132B/A.10018) into legislation in New York State. This law requires schools to evaluate and potentially implement silent panic alarm systems as part of their district-level safety plans.

Governor Hochul emphasized the significance of this law, stating, "We will continue to take aggressive action until every child in New York is safe to pursue an education without the fear of senseless tragedy. That's why I am proud to put pen to paper on Alyssa's Law, a real and meaningful piece of legislation that will require school districts to evaluate systems that can save precious minutes - and lives - in the event of an active shooter situation."

## KEY REQUIREMENTS OF ALYSSA'S LAW IN NEW YORK

Alyssa's Law outlines specific requirements to ensure effective implementation and usage of silent panic alarms in schools. These include:

- **Administrative Access to Information:** School administrators must have access to vital information during an emergency to make informed decisions swiftly.
- **Silent Panic Button:** Schools are required to install silent panic buttons that can be activated discreetly, alerting law enforcement without causing panic among students and staff.



- **Real-Time Communication Between Law Enforcement and First Responders:** Ensuring seamless communication between law enforcement and first responders is crucial for coordinated and efficient emergency response.
- **2-Way Communication with Users:** The law mandates the installation of systems that facilitate two-way communication, allowing users to relay critical information to law enforcement and receive instructions during an emergency.

## IN CONCLUSION

Alyssa's Law represents a significant advancement in school safety, driven by the need to protect students and staff from potential threats. By mandating the installation of silent panic alarms and enhancing communication during emergencies, this legislation aims to prevent future tragedies and ensure a safer learning environment for all.

At IKON Edutech Group, we understand the critical importance of school safety and are dedicated to helping K-12 schools implement the necessary technology solutions to comply with Alyssa's Law. From silent panic alarms to advanced security cameras, our customized technology solutions and personalized support ensure that your school is equipped to handle emergencies efficiently and effectively.

By partnering with us, schools can create a safer environment for students and staff, fostering a secure atmosphere conducive to learning and growth.



# SECURE YOUR DEVICES: BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING LAPTOPS, TABLETS, AND MOBILE DEVICES

Have you ever wondered what would happen if a student's or teacher's sensitive data fell into the wrong hands? In today's digital age, protecting this information is more important than ever. The NIST Cybersecurity Framework requires us to encrypt data both during transmission and while it's stored. For New York schools, this means ensuring that all student data and teacher or principal Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) data is encrypted at every stage.

Today, we'll dive into the specific encryption requirements for safeguarding these critical types of data.

## DATA AT REST

Data at rest refers to data stored on devices or in the cloud. To comply with encryption requirements:

### Traditional Hardware

Modern operating systems on desktop computers, laptops, and servers typically encrypt hard drives automatically. The primary challenge lies in ensuring users do not save files to unencrypted boot volumes or disable encryption.

### Mobile Devices

Encryption for mobile devices like Chromebooks, tablets, and cell phones has been standard since iOS 3.0 and Android 4.0. The key here is user education: ensuring encryption settings remain enabled and discouraging the sharing of devices containing sensitive data.

## Cloud Services

Cloud storage must be encrypted, with access protected by multi-factor authentication (MFA). Educational agencies must ensure their contracts with service providers include data protection agreements (DPA) that mandate encryption.

Data can be stored across various platforms, including:

- Google Suite (Gmail, Google Drive, etc.)
- Office 365 (Outlook, OneDrive, etc.)
- EduTech Apps (Blackboard, Kahoot!, etc.)
- Storage Solutions (Barracuda, Cohesity, etc.)
- Social Media Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)

## DATA IN TRANSIT

Data in transit encompasses data moving across networks or the Internet. Encryption is required for all data movements. Agencies must select suitable encrypted communication products and ensure their use for transmitting confidential information. Examples include:

- Parent Communication: ClassDojo, ParentSquare, Procure
- Teacher/Staff and Student Communication: Bloomz, Remind
- Third-Party Contractor Communication: Gmail, Outlook, Virtru, Zix Mail
- Special Education Communication: Ed Plan, Embrace, Frontline

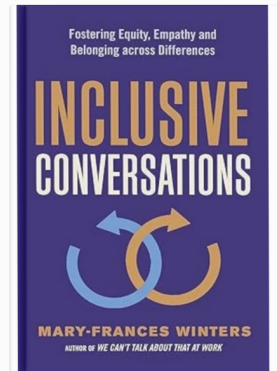
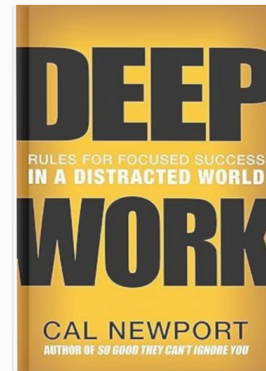
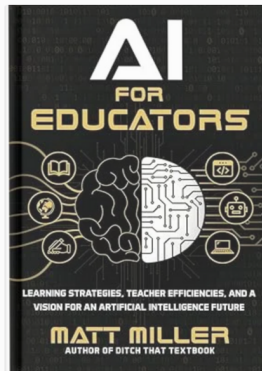
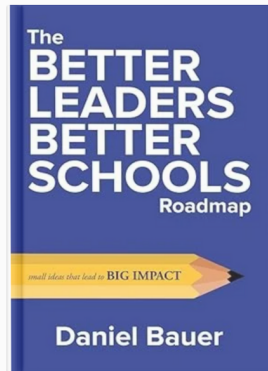
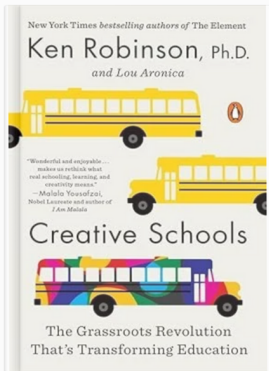
Unencrypted data, or data in clear text, is highly vulnerable to theft. Ensuring encryption at all stages of data movement and storage is essential to prevent unauthorized access and data breaches.

## DATA PROTECTION CHEAT SHEET

DATA CATEGORY	ENCRYPTION REQUIREMENT	KEY CONSIDERATIONS
DATA AT REST	Encrypted hard/flash drive, server, or cloud	Ensure user compliance, disable unencrypted boot volumes, avoid turning off encryption settings
MOBILE DEVICES	Standard encryption on iOS and Android	Educate users on maintaining encryption and not sharing devices
CLOUD SERVICES	Encrypted storage with MFA	Verify third-party encryption, include DPA in contracts, enforce least privilege access
DATA IN TRANSIT	Encrypted during transfer	Use encrypted communication tools, ensure encryption for all data movements, both internal and over the Internet

# ESSENTIAL BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR K-12 EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

K-12 educators and school leaders must stay on top of innovative strategies and insights to foster a thriving learning environment. Here's a curated list of impactful books that provide valuable guidance for enhancing educational practices and leadership skills.



**1. "AI for Educators: Learning Strategies, Teacher Efficiencies, and a Vision for an Artificial Intelligence Future" by Matt Miller**

Explores how AI can revolutionize education, offering practical strategies for leveraging technology to enhance learning and improve teacher efficiency.

**2. "The Better Leaders Better Schools Roadmap: Small Ideas That Lead to Big Impact" by Daniel Bauer**

Provides actionable insights and strategies for school leaders to implement small yet powerful changes that can lead to significant improvements in their schools.

**3. "Reconnect: Building School Culture for Meaning, Purpose, and Belonging" by Doug Lemov**

Learn about the importance of a strong school culture, providing strategies for fostering a sense of belonging and purpose among students and staff.

**4. "Inclusive Conversations: Fostering Equity, Empathy, and Belonging across Differences" by Mary-Frances Winters**

This book offers tools and techniques for having meaningful conversations about equity and inclusion, essential for creating a supportive and empathetic school environment.

**5. "The Promises of Giants" by John Amaechi**

A powerful guide for leaders to inspire greatness and drive positive change, emphasizing the importance of leadership with integrity and vision.

**6. "First, Break All the Rules: What the World's Greatest Managers Do Differently" by Marcus Buckingham**

The author challenges conventional management practices and offers insights into what makes great managers stand out, providing valuable lessons for school leaders.

**7. "Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World" by Cal Newport**

These principles of deep work are crucial for educators seeking to maintain focus and productivity in a world filled with distractions, enhancing both teaching and administrative effectiveness.

**8. "The Miracle Morning for Teachers: Elevate Your Impact for Yourself and Your Students" by Hal Elrod**

A morning routine designed specifically for teachers, aimed at increasing their energy, focus, and overall impact in the classroom.

**9. "Evident Equity: A Guide for Creating Systemwide Change in Schools" by Lauryn Mascareñaz**

A roadmap for creating equitable and inclusive school systems, essential for fostering fairness and opportunity for all students.

**10. "Hard Conversations Unpacked: The Whos, the Whens, and the What-ifs" by Jennifer Beth Abrams**

Practical advice for navigating difficult conversations in educational settings, essential for effective communication and conflict resolution.

**11. "Creative Schools: The Grassroots Revolution That's Transforming Education" by Sir Ken Robinson**

A transformative approach to education, encouraging creativity and innovation in schools to better engage students and enhance learning outcomes.

**HAVE A BOOK TITLE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD TO THIS LIST?**

Drop us a line at [info@ikonbusinessgroup.com](mailto:info@ikonbusinessgroup.com), and let us know!