

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 th					
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 (

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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.—Th						
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 fo						
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-						
	cational institutions shall be voluntary.						

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(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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