

Schools and cyberattacks: Key stats that boards need to know

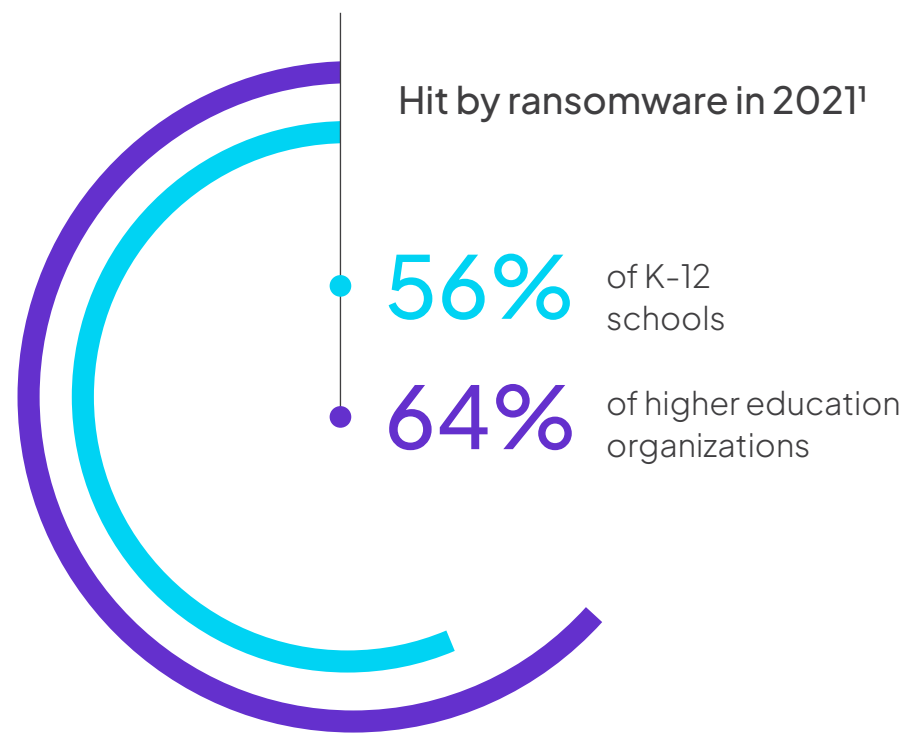
Number of ransomware attacks is rising

x2 Almost double the school districts hit by ransomware in 2022 vs 2021²

 **500,000** students

 **1,300** schools

The most prominent attack of 2022, in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest district in the U.S.³



Costs of ransomware attacks are huge

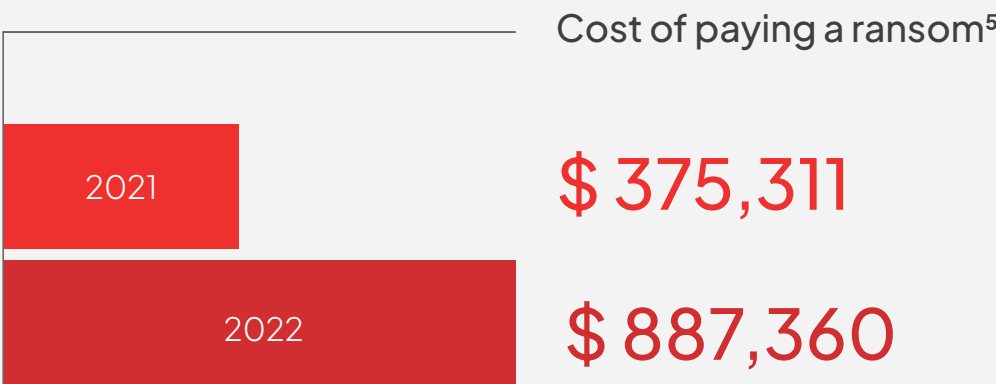


\$ 3.5 Billion


Cost of 67 ransomware attacks across 1,000 schools in 2021⁴


“Staying ahead of [cyber risk] really comes down to you as a board member knowing the right questions to ask.”


Brian Stafford,
President and CEO, Diligent



Impacts of cyberattacks on school operations

 **3 days – 3 weeks**
loss of learning time for schools following a cyberattack

 **2 – 9 months**
average recovery time for schools after a cyberattack⁶





 **Consequences are significant and costly**

- Having to close schools
- Disruption in learning and teaching
- Taxpayer funds being used to recover data
- Identity theft
- Exposure of sensitive student data

Establish a sound cybersecurity framework

Governance technology helps boards protect sensitive student and school data, as well as prevent, mitigate, and respond to cybersecurity threats.

Governance technology brings in a sound cybersecurity framework that provides:

-  Controls to limit 3rd party access
-  User-based permissions to protect sensitive information
-  Robust data encryption to secure board documents
-  The tools to enable new board members to get up to speed quickly on cybersecurity policies

Alongside using governance technology, **school boards should**

- 1** Conduct regular security audits and training on cybersecurity
- 2** Follow good practice in data management
- 3** Have an emergency preparedness plan
- 4** Have a clear vision of who-does-what after a breach

See how Diligent Community can help strengthen your school board’s cyber resilience. Request a demo today.

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[1] <https://news.sophos.com/en-us/2022/07/12/the-state-of-ransomware-in-education-2022/>
 [2] <https://www.emsisoft.com/en/blog/43258/the-state-of-ransomware-in-the-us-report-and-statistics-2022/>
 [3] <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/blogs/how-schools-can-become-cyber/>
 [4] <https://www.comparitech.com/blog/information-security/school-ransomware-attacks/>
 [5] <https://media.kasperskydaily.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/85/2023/02/08113414/Ransomware-Schools-Report-2023.pdf>
 [6] <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105480>