



## CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH



### FAST FACTS



As of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1,238,405 students are learning fully remotely in Illinois, while another 527,022 are learning under a blended remote learning model.



According to [Business Insider](#), more than 1 million children were victims of identity theft in 2019. Children are common and easy targets for hackers.



In 2019, the [K-12 Cybersecurity Resource Center](#) reported and cataloged 348 publicly disclosed school incidents of cyber incidents.



Just 2 weeks into the 2020 school year, malware attacks on the devices of a large Los Angeles school district caused suspension of remote instruction for 25,000 students until all devices were collected and investigated.

### TIPS & TRICKS

#### What can you do to help ensure your student's cyber safety?

**Get to know the tech you and your students are using:** If the school issues or requires technology that you and your child are not familiar with, explore its features together.

**Use strong passwords:** Consider using pass *phrases* when tasked with creating new and updating existing passwords. One example might be "Time-for-Tea-@-1:23". This phrase uses upper and lower cases, special characters, and numbers, making it exponentially harder for cyber hackers to attack.

**Update your Systems and Software:** The more current your software, the fewer vulnerabilities exist for cyber criminals to attack and infect your devices with ransomware or malware.

**Vet your apps:** There are a myriad of new apps, games, and tools that have been created for classrooms operating remotely. Check out tools like [Common Sense Media](#) to check privacy ratings of popular apps.

**Consider your student's camera usage:** While having students turn on their video functions increases engagement, forcing camera usage may compromise a student's comfort level with privacy, safety, and equity. If you or your students are uncomfortable displaying their living space to others, suggest utilizing features on web-conferencing apps like Zoom to create a profile picture/avatar for themselves, or [create virtual backgrounds](#).

**Communication is key:** Protecting children online is to educate them and make sure that not only you are talking to them, but they are talking to you. Open up conversations about privacy and discuss with them what information they think is and is not okay to share online, and when to and when to not use the camera feature on their device(s).



### Need to report a security issue?

The Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) is committed to protecting our customers. If you have found a vulnerability or security issue, we ask that you submit a detailed description of the issue to us at: [DoIT.Security@illinois.gov](mailto:DoIT.Security@illinois.gov).